

- Name: **Brian Wright**
- Graduation Year: **2013 for Sport Administration; 2015 for Masters in Business**

### **Administration**

- Job Title: **Venue Manager, Finley Stadium Complex**
- Briefly Explain what you actually do for your job: **I am responsible for all Facility and Field Operations as well as our Guest Services staff for Finley Stadium and the First Tennessee Pavilion.**



- What made you choose Sport Management as a degree plan? **I did my Senior Project in High School on Historic Engel Stadium and efforts to revitalize it. Through that project and the connections I made, I landed an internship at Finley Stadium my freshman year in college and at the Chattanooga Lookouts my sophomore year. Those experiences inspired me to work in the event industry.**
- What experiences helped shape you while you were at UTC (personally and professionally)? **Personally, the people I met living on campus my freshmen year shaped a lot of my best friendships still to this day. Professionally, getting to meet and build relationships with the awesome people involved with UTC Athletics, the Chattanooga FC, and the Chattanooga Market among other events really shaped who I**

**am today professionally. Everybody with these organizations is 100% devoted to creating events that are good for Chattanooga and that is pretty cool.**

- What do you wish you had known/done while you were here at UTC to prepare for the profession? **I wish I would have gotten involved with more campus organizations and clubs.**
- What kinds of things should someone do if they wanted to get your job (Be honest about where they should invest their time (i.e., networking, volunteering, academic achievement, etc)? **Take any opportunity that comes your way that may be able to help you meet people or make a difference in the industry. But beyond that, find areas within the major that you are really passionate about. Sports Management is too broad a major for that to be your only focus. For me it was artificial turf maintenance and sustainability. In my current role I am able to make a big impact in those areas.**
- What are the challenges and blessings of being in this profession? What frustrates you and what keeps you there? **I used to watch sports on TV all the time, but because of my current job and having to work weekends, I only follow teams that play at Finley Stadium now. That used to bother me, but I have gotten used to it now. For us, our busy season is from April-December so we are constantly working inconsistent hours, long hours, etc. It is a grind, but it is also nice to have three months over the winter with very flexible hours. In the end, I really like my job, because I am working somewhere where people go to find enjoyment, a fun atmosphere, etc. Being able to help make that happen is pretty cool!**