

INTERVIEW WITH MATTHEW C. WHITIS, OF THE DOUGLAS E. PERRY STUDENT LIFE & REC CENTER AT OLIVET NAZARENE UNIVERSITY, BOURBONNAIS, IL



When Matt Whitis, Director of Physical Plant, was planning the award winning state of the art Perry Student Center at Olivet Nazarene University in Bourbonnais, IL back in 2011, he was determined to provide the safest possible aquatic environment for his staff and his swimmers. Well aware of the hazards of ordinary pool chemicals, he launched into researching his options. It was serendipitous that, down the way Riverside Health Fitness Center (the wellness center for the local hospital), had been successfully using the TMI SaltPure® systems on their pools since 2009. Matt was able to see the results first hand and decided that this was the way to go for the new recreation center. At that point, he had to get a variance from the local health department, although, today commercial salt systems are recognized as a viable option for commercial pools. Today, Matt tells us that, 'the swimmer experience has been phenomenal, really, really great!' The pools are easy to maintain and manage, there are no huge fluctuations or swings. He was quick to point out that all bodies of water have their own personality and with the TMI systems, it was easy to plan and respond appropriately.

"In the 4 years since opening, we have never had a lengthy shutdown that was not planned!...We have rarely ever had to handle ordinary chlorine, which is a testament to the TMI system. We have a backup system which was required by the state, but have never had to use it. With approximately 1,000 swimmers a day, ranging from infant swim lessons to team swimming, this system has kept up at all times."

At the outset it was decided to introduce a competitive swim team and the response from the athletes have been very positive with swimmers commenting on how the SaltPure® water has no negative effects on skin, eyes and hair.

Matt's feedback on TMI Remote Support, *"For the most part, it's like you're next door! It doesn't feel like you are across the country. They way you log in and assist, it's like you're right there in the pump room! But more importantly, TMI is not just a vendor, TMI is a partner, which is a huge comfort in our world. We definitely got our money's worth!"*

In closing, Matt reiterates that, in the world of facility maintenance, the key to success is to look for ways to cut down on maintenance, and the TMI system does that by largely managing itself. ***"But above all, the increased safety of my swimmers and staff is a huge comfort."***

more on reverse side



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MORE ON OLIVET NAZARENE UNIVERSITY: DOUGLAS E. PERRY STUDENT LIFE & REC CENTER

The aquatic design at the Perry included a competition, lap and leisure pool to embrace both competitive swimming and fun. The Douglas E. Perry Student Life & Rec Center opened its doors on 12/12/12. In 2016, the Mens' Swimming and Diving team became NAIA National Champions and the Womens' Team were runners-up. Both teams are only four years old. That is a remarkable feat in such a short amount of time. Congratulations to all of the athletes and coaches.



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COMING SOON!



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