

Francois Charvet - NCTTA Member of the Month

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Four years ago, Francois Charvet walked onto the largest college campus in the United States. With over eight hundred student organizations at The Ohio State University, none involved Francois's favorite sport, table tennis. So, Francois took it upon himself to start what is nationally known and recognized today as the Buckeye Table Tennis Club. He built the club from the ground to a seventy plus member student organization. "We went from three basement ping pong tables in a common area to twelve competition tables in a spacious multipurpose room" added Charvet. "I probably had the most satisfaction in being able to developed the membership; its a large and diversified membership base which makes it more fun for everyone, and it also helps the club thrive financially and stand out amongst the hundreds of other clubs and associations on campus." Showing his true love and passion for table tennis in 2007, Charvet and fellow Buckeye Table Tennis Club member Doug Hurak took on the biggest challenge of college table tennis, hosting the 2007 National Table Tennis Championships. "I have the utmost respect for [Charvet] as he was the event director for the OSU event and truly did a lions share of the work and even prior to that he was always a good advocate of College Table Tennis," said Willy Leparulo, president of the National Collegiate Table Tennis Association. Now for Charvet, who graduates this summer with a PhD in Business Administration from Ohio State, moves from a fifty win playing

career in the NCTTA to the executive board as treasurer of the organization. “The best contribution I could make to the sport would be to help NCTTA further grow and accomplish its goals”, said Charvet in his statement of intent, “college table tennis is something I am very passionate about, and will remain close to, as I am merely switching sides.” Charvet will be missed not only at Ohio State but in the entire Ohio division. “I think he is a really dedicated guy” said Chris Oseredczuk, the North Ohio Division Director, “he has been a huge facet to the division.” One thing is for sure, the NCTTA is getting a very qualified person as the next treasurer. “As treasurer though, the first priorities are to make sure the NCTTA does well financially; efficiency, transparency, smart use of funds are important.” As far as his goals as the new treasurer of the NCTTA, Charvet said “perhaps the one I would like to slowly work on is fundraising in general, but its one step at a time, change is good, but it has to be sustainable.”

As for what’s next personally for Charvet, he will be moving to Boston and start working at Northeastern University. “I want to spend some more time with my wife and family, since working on the PhD over the last few years drained quite some time and energy in that regard” said Charvet. As for table tennis, “My schedule and other commitments don’t allow me to practice too often, but I plan to keep practicing, having fun, and hopefully just maintain a level not too far from where it is at now.”

If you would like to nominate people who you feel have made a difference in the NCTTA for future “Member of the Month” features, please email: reillyn@fsuimail.ferris.edu