

## Academy Signs Agreement to Strengthen Gabon National Sports Program

The Academy will work with the central African nation of Gabon to strengthen the country's national sports program under a new five-year cooperative agreement.

The Academy, which has worked on sport education and development projects in more than 65 nations, will work with Gabon on numerous enhancements including youth sports, sport facilities, national teams, and strength and conditioning. The project culminates several years of cooperation between the Academy and the nation of 1.7 million people.

"The first major international program on which the Academy embarked was in the Middle East in 1977, and we've since worked in numerous countries around the world," said Academy President and CEO Dr. T.J. Rosandich.

"This is the latest chapter in our mission of providing the world with programs in teaching, research and service in support of the advancement of sport.

"The Academy is pleased that Gabon is interested in building on its national sport program and we are looking forward to working with His Excellency President Ali Bongo Ondimba on this important effort."

The project is designed to assist in the development of Gabon's sport infrastructure in the areas of sports management, strength and conditioning for the nation's teams, physical education and scholastic sports for the school system and general assistance to the country's central sports organization. The Academy will evaluate, plan and assist with the upgrading and modernization of programs for the govern-



The Academy will work with Gabon to strengthen the country's national sports program under a new five-year cooperative agreement. Shown discussing the new program are Gabonese President His Excellency Ali Bongo Ondimba (left) and Dr. T.J. Rosandich, Academy President and Chief Executive Officer.

mental agency, including writing specifications for sports equipment to support the national sports program. The program will start with the Academy immediately deploying staff to focus on sport management and strength and conditioning.

The Academy's work in Gabon goes back to 2010 and the signing of a protocol for cooperation to develop sport in that country. This led to a project in which the Academy conducted a facilities legacy study on how to make best use of the Sino-Gabonese Friendship Stadium in Gabon's largest and capital city of Libreville. The 40,000-seat stadium was given to Gabon by the Chinese government and used for the Africa

Cup of Nations (AFCON) soccer tournament in 2012.

In 2013, an Academy team led by then-Vice President Dr. T.J. Rosandich and involving Academy faculty including Dr. Fred Cromartie, director of doctoral studies, conducted a comprehensive assessment of the national sports effort in Gabon. This review looked at the complete planning, management, staffing, and facilities of all interscholastic sport in the country. The program made recommendations to the Gabonese government on enhancing the sport effort at all levels. In addition to faculty and staff at the Academy and counterparts in Gabon, the collaboration has been aided by the ongoing efforts of Academy Trustee Joe Szlavik, president of Scribe Strategies & Advisors, Inc.

In 2014 then-Gabonese Minister of Youth and Sport His Excellency Blaise Louembe and His Excellency Michael Moussa-Adamo, Gabonese Ambassador to the United States, visited the Academy campus in Daphne, Ala., to further establish a framework for the Academy and Gabon to work together to implement recommendations of the plan. While momentum was initially positive, the global recession slowed the effort.

The plan to boost Gabon's sports programs took on new urgency when Gabonese President Ali Bongo Ondimba invited Dr. T.J. Rosandich, now the Academy's president and chief executive officer, to Gabon to meet with him and the government's highest ministers of sport. It was agreed that efforts to build on the country's sports program would be renewed. ■



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### MISSION STATEMENT

The United States Sports Academy is an independent, non-profit, accredited, special mission sports university created to serve the nation and the world with programs in instruction, research and service. The role of the Academy is to prepare men and women for careers in the profession of sports.

### ACCREDITATION

The Academy is regionally accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to award the Bachelor of Sports Science degree (level II), the Master of Sports Science degree (level III), and the Doctor of Education degree (level V). Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call (404) 679-4512 for questions about the accreditation of the United States Sports Academy.

*The United States Sports Academy accepts students regardless of race, religion, age, gender, disability or national origin.*



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## Senegal and Academy Look Toward Sports Development



His Excellency Matar Ba (middle), Senegal's Minister of Sport, meets with Academy Trustee Joseph Szlavik, and His Excellency Babacar Diagne (right), Senegal's Ambassador Extraordinary & Plenipotentiary to the U.S.

The Republic of Senegal and the Academy have entered into discussions for the Academy to do a comprehensive assessment of Senegal's national sport program as well as consideration for how the Academy's international education programs may be used as a tool for sports program development in the West African nation.

His Excellency Matar Ba, Senegal's Minister of Sport, met recently in Dakar with Academy Trustee Joseph Szlavik, who shared his thoughts on how the Academy's sport education expertise may best be used in Senegal. These discussions support the vision of Senegal President His Excellency Macky Sall to enhance the country's national sport effort.

The meeting between Minister Ba and Szlavik was arranged by His Excellency Babacar Diagne, Senegal's Ambassador Extraordinary & Plenipotentiary to the United States, who recently met with Academy President and CEO Dr. T.J. Rosandich in New York City. Ambassador Diagne provided Rosandich a general overview of sports in Senegal and the nation's effort to develop youth as an investment in the country's future. Rosandich shared with the Ambassador the Academy's long history of sports development in some 65 nations around the world and the various ways the Academy can work with the country to reach its full potential in this vital area. The discussion was held during the week the United Nations General Assembly was meeting in New York City.

Minister Ba and Szlavik reached an understanding that the Academy will undertake a thorough assessment of Senegal's national sport effort to guide plans for the future development of sport in the country. The assessment will look at all aspects including facilities, infrastructure, programs and personnel.

"To maximize your national sport effort, you must have a thorough assessment of what exists, and the Academy looks forward to working with Senegal on this important initiative. This effort recognizes that the structure and function of sport can be a key tool in the development of youth," Rosandich added.

"The important engagement of youth in sport in turn gives them the tools they need to be more productive as members of society. For instance, it is widely known that Senegal has many young people who have gone on to perform well in soccer, including the Premier League. This shows what can happen when human capital is properly developed.

"The youth of the nation represent its future, and any investment in the future is a wise investment indeed."

For more information on the Academy's international education activities, go to <https://ussa.edu/international-sport-education/>. ■

## Academy Faculty Member, Alumnus Dr. Dave Shrock Teaches Sport Marketing to Soccer Administrators in the UAE

Nationally acclaimed track and field coach and long-time health and physical fitness professor Dr. Dave Shrock kicked off this academic year's international sports education programs for the Academy by teaching a sports marketing course to soccer administrators in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Shrock – an Academy alumnus and National Faculty member – taught during September 2017 as part of the Academy's cooperative effort to train soccer administrators through a Football Club Operators License Program with the United Arab Emirates Football Association (UAEFA).

The Academy and UAEFA collaborated to develop the Football Association Academy for Sports Management, known as the Football Association Academy (FAA). This effort includes soccer certification programs that offer professional preparation and training designed to meet the needs of coaches, athletes, administrators and operatives at all levels in the UAE club system. The FAA began offering classes in February 2016.

The Academy provides faculty and instruction for the program, which includes subjects such as sports administration, sport marketing, sports media, and facility and event management. Each subject has three levels of instruction through which successful students receive in succession a "C", "B" and "A" level license. Shrock taught a level "C" sport marketing course in the UAE. *(continued on next page)*

(continued from page 2) “We are giving these students a good foundation for sport marketing so they can put together the pieces of the puzzle that make up a successful sport enterprise,” Shrock said. “They have great facilities, players, coaches and staff. We are here to teach them how to increase visibility, increase spectators and market their programs on social media and the web.”

Shrock – a professor of health and physical education and track and field coach at Modesto Junior College in Calif. – this summer was elected chair of the USA Track and Field (USATF) National Associations Committee at the group’s annual meeting in Orlando, Fla. He was also awarded the McGill Legacy Coaching Award, given annually by the USATF Coaching Education Committee.

Shrock earned a bachelor’s degree in history and a master’s degree in kinesiology from San Jose State University. He earned his Doctor of Education degree in Sports Management from the Academy in 2009 and was named the 2017 Alumnus of the Year. ■



Shrock, second from right on front, kicked off this academic year’s international sports education programs in the UAE.

## Thai Students Learn Through Annual Study Tour of American Sports Programs

For the eleventh year, the Academy hosted top college students from Thailand on a successful sports study tour of the U.S. designed to enrich their knowledge of sport.

The tour was conducted under the Academy’s International Certification in Sports Management and Sports Coaching programs in collaboration with the Sports Authority of Thailand (SAT). The SAT Sport Study Tour, which ran from 4-16 September 2017, provided 18 delegates with an in-depth look at American sports programs and facilities. The SAT is Thailand’s primary sports organization and plays a vital role in developing sport in the Southeast Asian nation.

The students visited California, includ-



An 18-member delegation from the SAT celebrated the graduation of 12 top students from the Academy’s ICSM and ICSC programs in a ceremony on the Academy’s campus.

ing Stanford University and AT&T Park in San Francisco; the Utah Oval, Salt Lake City Olympic Park and the Utah Jazz in Utah; the United States Air Force Academy and the United States Olympic Committee Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colo.; the University of West Florida in Pensacola; and the University of South Alabama, Hank Aaron Stadium, and Daphne Strike Soccer Club, all in Alabama.

The group visited the Academy, where they attended workshops and made presentations related to the tour. On 15 September 2017, they were honored with certificates in a graduation ceremony, followed by a reception with the Academy faculty and staff. ■

## Academy Instructors “Train the Trainers” to Improve Health and Skills of Youth in Malaysia



Bryan Johnson, top row center, and Dr. Phillip Capps, far right, are shown with students participating in the “Training of the Trainers” program in Malaysia.

A pair of Academy instructors recently traveled to Malaysia to assist the southeast Asian country in training the people responsible for improving the health and life skills of youth of the nation.

Dr. Phillip Capps and Bryan Johnson, both Academy alumni, taught in the Academy’s “Training of the Trainers” (TOT) program in Kuala Lumpur. Launched in 2015, the program assists the Malaysian government in its National Service Training Program (NSTP). The Academy’s team is responsible for training the instructors who in turn teach sport and physical fitness skills to more than 250,000 Malaysian youth each year as part of the country’s NSTP curriculum. The partnership is one of many collaborations between the Academy and Malaysia dating back to the early 1980s.

“I have had many great experiences teaching for the Academy since 2012,” Johnson said. “I have taught different types of students with different skill levels. I always come back with some great memories.”

“Serving on the National Faculty for the Academy has been very inspiring,” Capps said. “Each international assignment has provided a completely different experience.”

Johnson has served as a coach at various colleges and programs for more than 10 years. Currently, he is the head women’s softball coach at Shoreline Community College in Shoreline, Wash. Johnson earned his Master of Sports Science degree in sport studies from the Academy.

Capps has served in various college campus student life, sports and recreational

positions throughout his career. Capps currently works as the president of aquatic management for Swim Macon Pool Management in Georgia, serving as a safety trainer and pool operator at various swim clubs. Capps earned his Doctor of Education degree in sports management from the Academy. ■

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## Academy Faculty Work to Protect Young Athletes from Concussion

The Academy's faculty are taking a lead role in protecting young athletes from the long-term dangers of sport-related concussions in contact sports.

For the past two years, the Academy has worked with the University of South Alabama (USA) Department of Neurology and the Mobile County Public School System (MCPSS) under the Concussion Awareness Program (CAP), funded in part by a grant from the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) to USA.

Under the program directed by USA, the University and the Academy developed procedures for use by the school system to better protect student athletes from the negative health consequences of concussions. Students, coaches and others involved in contact sports programs are provided training on concussion awareness and prevention. Protocols are also put in place to make sure that student athletes who receive concussions are not allowed to return to play until neurologists approve.

Dr. Vincent K. Ramsey, Academy chair of sports exercise science, said a letter of cooperation was recently signed to expand the CAP partnership to Baldwin County Public School System (BCPSSS) high schools.

CAP has two key components, according to Ramsey. The first is educational. This part of the program provides student athletes, coaches, trainers and parents with an online tutorial application to evaluate and build upon their knowledge of concussion. Student athletes are required to complete the tutorial as part of the program.

The second element of the program relates to ensuring that athletes with concussions are given proper medical treatment and not allowed to resume competing until medically cleared. Under the protocol, players suspected to have suffered concussions cannot resume competition unless released by neurology physicians.



Academy director of sports management Dr. Brandon Spradley instructs Fairhope (Ala.) High School football players as they participate in Concussion Awareness Program (CAP) testing.

"Last year with the NCAA grant, we went to every Mobile County high school and tested every football player through the Concussion Awareness Program," Ramsey said. "Athletes take a questionnaire, then watch a video with information about concussions and how they would report, then they would take the quiz again. The results showed a significant positive influence of the program."

"The results show a statistically significant improvement in the athletes' levels of knowledge of concussions, as well as their perception of what a concussion is and what they should do to report it and recover."

Ramsey and Dr. Brandon Spradley, Academy director of

sports management, are part of a team of Academy faculty who provide concussion education to teachers, coaches, players and others under the educational aspect of CAP. Other Academy involved include Dr. Stephen Butler, dean of academic affairs, and Dr. Bret Simmermacher, chair of sports coaching.

"Concussion education is very much needed, especially at the youth and high school levels," Spradley said. "Much of what we hear about concussions come from sports media covering the NFL and other professional sports. Sometimes young athletes are forgotten about and neglected."

"Our hope is that this program will educate thousands of young athletes about the signs and symptoms of concussion," Spradley said. "Our goal is for young athletes to have the right attitude and mindset towards concussion and improve their behavior and willingness to report concussion symptoms."

USA is currently seeking a \$1.6 million grant from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to build on the progress already made by CAP by expanding the program to a wider geographical area, as well as serve younger athletes. The Academy would provide the educational component of the concussion prevention program as a subrecipient of the grant.

Dr. Anthony Martino, chairman of the Department of Neurosurgery in the USA College of Medicine, has practiced neurosurgery for 25 years and has championed head injury prevention programs. He is CAP's principal investigator, along with co-principal investigators Dr. Ashley Marass, an assistant professor in USA's College of Nursing, and Ramsey. Spradley, as well as USA Professor Dr. Benjamin Hill and Mary Wilstrup, USA pediatric clinical nurse, are also involved in CAP.

Concussion has become a major issue of concern in contact sports in recent years, especially in relation to the discovery of Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy, or CTE, among professional football players and other athletes. Caused by repeated blows to the head and recurring concussions, the disease has been blamed for cognitive and intellectual impairment, mood disorders, depression, drug abuse, and suicide attempts among elite athletes.

In addition to its involvement in CAP, the Academy offers a free online course on sport-related concussions which provides an in-depth review of the risks, prevention, recognition, treatment and management of sport-related concussions. The course also discusses the importance of awareness and education strategies for coaches, athletes, parents, administrators, and health care professionals. The course is available by going to <https://ussa.edu/freecourses/>. ■

## BE CAREER READY



*"The Academy really ushered me into coaching. Everything I learned at the Academy I still use all of the time. Getting my degree from the Academy has been a huge part of my success."*

**Mike Leach - 1988 M.S.S. in Sports Coaching**  
Washington State University Head Football Coach  
2015 Pac-12 Conference Co-Coach of the Year  
**2002 Academy Alumnus of the Year**

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## Dr. Vincent Ramsey Appointed to Editorial Review Board of Journal of Functional Morphology and Kinesiology

Academy Chair of Sports Exercise Science Dr. Vincent Ramsey has been appointed to the editorial review board of the Journal of Functional Morphology and Kinesiology, an international peer-reviewed open access journal that studies the musculoskeletal system and its associated disorders.

Ramsey's areas of expertise for the journal are biomechanics, clinical rehabilitation, restorative medicine, orthopedics, traumatic brain injury, tactical athletics and concussion education.

Ramsey also reviews research papers for Publons, a website used by academics to track, verify and showcase peer reviewed contributions, and the Multidisciplinary Digital Publishing Institute (MDPI), an academic open access publisher based in Switzerland.



Dr. Vincent Ramsey

"It is very gratifying to be selected to the editorial board of the Journal of Clinical Morphology and Kinesiology, as well as a select reviewer for Publons and MDPI," Ramsey said. "These roles allow me to advance my discipline by providing expert feedback to researchers and colleagues seeking to publish their findings in national and international peer reviewed journals."

Human morphology includes the study of the form and structure of bones, organs and anatomy. Kinesiology is the study of the mechanics of body movements.

Ramsey received his Ph.D. degree in physical education and sport studies/biomechanics from the University of Georgia in Athens, Ga., in 2002. He received his Master of Science degree in exercise science/biomechanics in 1998 and his Bachelor of Science degree in physics/mathematics in 1996, both from Georgia State University in Atlanta. ■

## Academy's Chair of Sports Coaching Says Travel Baseball Model for Youth is "Misguided"

A former professional baseball player who is chair of sports coaching at the Academy says he is concerned about a "misguided" trend in youth baseball where young players across the country are leaving community leagues to join travel teams in search of more competitive play and college scholarships.

"There's this belief that a travel team and a higher level of competitive play will propel a child to a higher place; I think that belief is misguided," said Dr. Bret Simmermacher. "If a young person is not on a travel baseball or basketball team, some parents feel like their kids are being left behind; I just don't see that," Simmermacher added. "When someone can do the basic fundamentals well, over and over, it shows on the field and recruiters will find you."

Simmermacher played college baseball as a pitcher under Eddie Stanky at the University of South Alabama in Mobile, Ala., and at the University of West Florida (UWF) in Pensacola, Fla., before signing with the Seattle Mariners organization and playing for the Bellingham, Wash., Mariners, who won the Northwest League championship during his time on the team. He then coached a variety of sports at the high school and college levels in Ohio and New Mexico for more than two decades before joining the Academy faculty. He earned bachelor's and master's degrees in health, leisure and sports/physical education from UWF and his Doctor of Sport Management degree from the Academy.

Travel baseball has been around for a couple of decades, but its participation has grown rapidly in the last few years. For instance, in 2000 roughly a dozen teams participated in the All-American Wood Bat Classic travel ball tournament in Atlanta. Today the event has grown to 100 teams.

"Not everybody is going to be a superstar. People need to look at the statistics. Very few players go from youth ball to high school ball, from high school ball to college and then from college to the professional level."

According to Little League stats, fewer than 10 percent of youth baseball players will play high school baseball. Only 6.7 percent of high school senior players go on to play NCAA baseball. Of those in college, only 9.7 percent will play professionally at any level. Some travel ball organizations contend that they do increase the chances of players making the college and pro ranks. Simmermacher counters that most of the players would have succeeded anyway.

"Those are the absolute best of the best," Simmermacher said. "I believe those kinds of players would be in the draft anyway, no matter where they played. If you are good enough, the scouts and people will find you."

Simmermacher said following the travel ball model can also lead to sport specific injuries due to overuse, especially if parents put too much pressure on their children to travel, compete and perform like adults. Simmermacher is also concerned that the travel model discourages athletes from playing multiple sports, when parents and coaches pressure children to specialize in one sport in order to get a college scholarship. He hopes that trend dies as more and more professional athletes reveal they played multiple sports growing up.

"I think specialization will eventually die down," Simmermacher said. "I know not all coaches agree with me, but I think playing more than one sport shows college coaches that you have athletic ability and it gives you a chance to be a kid." ■



Dr. Bret Simmermacher

## Academy President, Faculty Member Featured on TCT National Broadcasts

Academy President and CEO Dr. T.J. Rosandich and Dr. Bret Simmermacher, chair of sports coaching, recently appeared on nationally broadcast television programs for the TCT Network.

The two were featured on "Beyond the Goal," a series hosted on the Christian broadcasting network by former college football coach and sports broadcaster Mike Gottfried. On the show, Gottfried talks with current and former athletes and others in the field of sport about their experiences in sport and their Christian faith.

Rosandich and Simmermacher appeared on "Beyond the Goal" on Saturday, 1 July 2017, in an episode that focused on patriotism and freedom in celebration of Independence Day. They also appeared individually and together on additional shows that ran this summer discussing sports, their lives, and the contributions of the Academy to sport education. Videos of those programs can be viewed on the Academy's YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/user/USSportsAcademy>.

TCT is a Christian network that provides award-winning exclusive programming, live broadcasts from across the country, praise and worship music programs, ministry programs and more. TCT is broadcast to 60 million homes throughout the U.S. and parts of Canada on Direct TV Channel 377, through numerous streaming services and on local cable. ■

## NOTABLE ALUMNI

## Dr. Karla Faye Jones Says Doctorate Crucial to Leadership Career in Academics

Alumna Dr. Karla Faye Jones said the Academy's knowledgeable, experienced faculty and flexible scheduling options were important factors in her decision to obtain a doctoral degree from the Academy.

And the decision turned out to be the right one, she says. "So far, my greatest professional accomplishment is becoming the chair of the Health and Physical Education department soon after graduating with my doctorate from the Academy," Jones said.

Jones, a Charlotte, N.C., resident, earned her Doctor of Education degree in sports management with a sports marketing emphasis from the Academy in 2015.

Jones serves as the chair of the Health and Physical Education Department and the chair of the Worksite Wellness Committee at Central Piedmont Community College (CPCC) in Charlotte. She also teaches sport management students at Charlotte-area schools Johnson C. Smith University and Queens University of Charlotte.

"Attending a school that focuses primarily on sports was the best decision for me, and I believe it is the best decision for any student looking to acquire a degree in sport management," Jones said.

"The Academy had professors who were either educators knowledgeable within sport management or professionals within the sports industry."

Along with the Academy's experienced faculty, Jones said its flexible scheduling made the decision to pick the Academy for her doctoral studies an easy one.

"I enjoyed being able to work at my own pace and take courses as needed. I had the continuous support from my instructors and my advisor, which is important."

Jones plans and organizes the activities of her instructional area and provides responsible staff support to the division director at CPCC. In addition to teaching, she organizes and develops new program courses and program certificates. She is responsible for supervising, hiring, evaluation, training employees, and overseeing students and classroom sections.

She also provides CPCC and its surrounding community with wellness opportunities that support their desire to make healthy lifestyle choices through a multifaceted program with education, physical activities, health and nutrition workshops, screenings and opportunities within the Charlotte community.

Prior to joining the CPCC administration, Jones worked in the athletics director's office and in the sports marketing department at East Carolina University (ECU), where she earned her bachelor's and master's degrees. She also worked on the security team for the NBA's Charlotte Bobcats organization. Jones said she would eventually like to work as a dean or provost at a university.

Jones was recently elected to serve on the ECU Board of Directors and named to the ECU 'top 40 under 40 alumni' in 2015. She also started the Karla Faye Jones Scholarship in Kinesiology at ECU. ■



Dr. Karla Faye Jones

## Where Are They Now?

**Daniel Acosta (B.S.S., Sports Coaching, 2008; M.S.S., Sports Coaching, 2010)**

Daniel Acosta is the founder and chief executive officer of College Scout Bureau, which connects high school student athletes with college athletic programs that fit their needs and skills.



Daniel Acosta

"The Academy is the best thing that has happened to me," said Acosta, who is from Port Orange, Fla. "Online education is the best tool in the market right now. I encourage people to give themselves an opportunity to try it. In my experience at the Academy, my instructors were very professional and took their time to assist with everything I needed." ■

**Robb Bolton (M.S.S., Sports Management, 2007)**

Robb Bolton is the founder and chief executive officer of Cancer Fit, a non-profit organization that provides free exercise and wellness programs, education and resources for adult and childhood cancer survivors in Southern California.

Along with his work at Cancer Fit, Bolton is the associate director of campus recreation at Pepperdine University in Malibu, Calif. At Pepperdine, Bolton works with students, faculty and staff to achieve their fitness and health goals. He will also work to assist Pepperdine as it builds a new and improved recreation facility. ■



Robb Bolton

**Jaymie Cox (M.S.S., Sports Coaching and Sports Management, 2017)**

Jaymie Cox is the women's volleyball coach and assistant athletic director at Olympic College in Bremerton, Wash.

"The Academy allowed me to get my degree on my timeline," Cox said. "While I was earning the degree I was living in multiple countries and pursuing some great opportunities. I didn't feel like I had to sacrifice one for the other. The self-paced courses were amazing."

"My degrees from the Academy have helped me solidify my sport foundation. I've worked in multiple arenas in the sports world but I needed a stronger base of knowledge on topics such as sport law, personnel management, and facilities management. Now I have the confidence to speak up when I see something that could be a liability to our department because I have actually read the law and/or case study." ■



Jaymie Cox

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**Dwight Hornibrook (M.S.S., Sports Studies, 2008)**

Dwight Hornibrook has been named the head coach of the women's soccer team at Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y.

A native of Fredericton in New Brunswick, Canada, Hornibrook had previously served as an assistant coach at Cornell for five seasons and as the team's interim head coach before the promotion. He is a veteran soccer coach whose lifetime record as a head coach is 182-115-30.

Before being named head coach at Cornell, Hornibrook served as the head coach of men's soccer at SUNY Cortland for eight seasons. Hornibrook also has head coaching experience at Houghton College in Canadea, New York, where he led the men's soccer team to NAIA regional titles in 1995 and 1996. ■



Dwight Hornibrook

**Jennifer Palacios (B.S.S. Student, Strength and Conditioning)**

United States Army Sergeant First Class Jennifer Palacios is a full-time working mother and the proud owner of four powerlifting records in the state of Florida.

Palacios, of Tampa, Fla., owns four state of Florida powerlifting records in her weight and age class in the squat (260 pounds), bench press (170 pounds), deadlift (360 pounds) and overall total weight (790 pounds).

"The Academy has prepared me for a career in the exercise and sports science field by providing the education portion needed in order for me to be given a chance," she said. "The fact that the Academy focuses solely on sports is wonderful. Having a sole focus allows for more attention to detail and more informed professors and students when it comes to sports." ■



Jennifer Palacios

**Dr. Joseph Spears (Ed.D., Sports Management, 2011)**

Dr. Joseph Spears, who used his Academy doctoral degree to earn a position as a college faculty member, is now seeking to provide elected service in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area.

Spears is an assistant professor of sports management at Bowie State University in Bowie, Md., where he also serves as NCAA faculty athletic representative. Spears recently announced his intention to run for public office, seeking the District 27A seat in the Maryland House of Delegates in the 2018 election.

"The Academy prepared me for all of this, and I am truly thankful for everything it has done for me and countless other graduates," he said. "It prepared me for a life in the world of sports. It gave me the tools and the wherewithal to engage in sports and the community and ultimately in the world of government." ■



Dr. Joseph Spears

## Washington State Football Coach and Academy Alumnus Mike Leach Visits Campus that Launched his Career



Leach (left) met with Academy President and CEO Dr. T.J. Rosandich and toured the American Sport Art Museum & Archives during his recent visit.

Academy alumnus and Washington State University head football coach Mike Leach recently visited the sports university's campus in Daphne, Ala., where he first learned the skills that he says "ushered me into coaching."

After graduating from Brigham Young University with a bachelor's degree in American studies and earning his Juris Doctor degree from Pepperdine University School of Law – where he originally planned to be an attorney – Leach decided to take a different career path as a football coach. He earned his Master of Sports Science degree in sports coaching from the Academy in 1988. Leach, a native of Cody, Wyo., is the Academy Alumni President and a past winner of the Academy's Alumnus of the Year Award.

"I had graduated from law school, but I was really interested in sports and coaching," Leach said. "The Academy was a really efficient degree. You can still have a job while taking all these courses that elevate your knowledge base. I have three degrees and of the ones I have, my Academy degree was the most efficient program as far as learning something, then immediately being able to apply it to what I was doing.

"The Academy really ushered me into coaching and I've been doing it ever since. The education prepared me very well as I was able to get education and experience in coaching simultaneously. Ultimately the skills I learned at the Academy helped me in my coaching career. I have a lot of respect and admiration for the Academy because I had a great experience. Everything I learned at the Academy I still use all of the time," he said. "Getting my degree from the Academy has been a huge part of my success."

Leach has compiled a 113-77 overall record as a head coach at Texas Tech University (2000-09) and Washington State (2012-17). He was named the Pac-12 Conference Coach of the Year in 2015 and the Big 12 Conference Coach of the Year in 2008. Leach also earned the George Munger Award and the Woody Hayes Trophy, awards given to the top collegiate football coach, in 2008.

Leach began his career as an assistant coach at California Polytechnic State University and worked as an assistant at universities including Oklahoma, Kentucky, Valdosta State, and Iowa Wesleyan. He eventually landed at the University of Kentucky, where he served as offensive coordinator under head coach Hal Mumme. At Kentucky, Mumme and Leach developed the "Air Raid Offense," which Leach later utilized as head coach at Texas Tech. Under his leadership, the Red Raiders had an 11-win season in 2008 and nine-win seasons in 2002, 2005 and 2005. The team also led the NCAA in passing yardage four years in a row and his teams produced most of the school's all-time statistical leaders in passing and receiving.

Washington State highlights include Leach leading his 2013 team to the school's first bowl bid in 10 seasons. The team also led the nation in passing offense and total offense. In 2015, the Cougars finished 9-4 and won the Sun Bowl with a 20-14 victory against the Miami Hurricanes. ■

## NOTABLE ALUMNI

## South African Anti-Doping Leader Khalid Galant Says Academy Provided Unique Global Focus

Alumnus Khalid Galant, chief executive officer of the South African Institute for Drug-Free Sport (SAIDS), said the Academy's unique global focus was a major factor in why he chose to earn his master's degree from the institution.

He is now using the knowledge gained at the Academy to perform a job that has become crucial in global sports: combatting doping.

Galant, who lives near Cape Town, South Africa, earned his Master of Sports Science degree in sports medicine from the Academy in 1994. He has served as the CEO of SAIDS since 2008.

"I was attracted to the Academy because it was the only specialized graduate degree in sport that had a truly global focus," Galant said. "The faculty had experience teaching in other countries in the sports environment and the student body was also very diverse."

SAIDS is an independent, national anti-doping agency for the country and its primary mandate is to implement the World Anti-Doping Code in the country and to ensure its compliance by athletes and sports federations.



Khalid Galant

South African Institute for  
Drug-Free Sport



"After graduating from the Academy I returned to South Africa in 1995, following the end of the Apartheid government in 1994," Galant said. "I was part of the first generation of black civil servants employed during the Nelson Mandela presidency. I worked for the then Minister of Sport developing policies on science and information matters on sport."

"Part of my task was to develop anti-doping legislation that would give jurisdiction to estab-

lish an independent agency. After the legislation was promulgated I was appointed as its first director."

Since the inception of SAIDS in 1998 it has provided leadership in the development of a national anti-doping strategy in South Africa. It has also developed and implemented a comprehensive drug testing program, provided drug education, consulted other African nations about their anti-doping infrastructure, and collaborated with other worldwide anti-doping agencies to achieve global standards for anti-doping practices.

Galant said anti-doping standards are more important now than ever after high profile athletes like Lance Armstrong have been caught using performance enhancing drugs. He also cited the recent Russian Olympic doping scandal, which involved hundreds of athletes across multiple athletic disciplines, as a reason why anti-doping education and reforms are necessary.

Galant studied international business management at Western Washington University and earned a bachelor's degree in exercise science from Occidental College. Galant played multiple sports as a child in South Africa, where rugby, soccer, and cricket are widely popular. ■

## Dr. Michael Armstrong (Ed.D., Sports Management, 2012)

Former college football player and current high school football coach Dr. Michael Armstrong has been honored as the Strength Coach of the Year in South Carolina.

Armstrong is the assistant athletic director, head strength coach and offensive line coach at Lugoff-Elgin High School in Lugoff, S.C. He was named the South Carolina Strength Coach of the Year by the state's Athletic Coaches Association and High School Strength Coaches Association. He became eligible for the award after winning the same honor in the state's 4A division.



Dr. Michael Armstrong

"I have found that my doctorate from the Academy has been extremely helpful in my duties and responsibilities as an assistant athletic director," Armstrong said. "The required curriculum included sports-related finance, law, management, research, psychology and current trends, and that has been extremely beneficial to me in facilitating my required duties." ■

## Dr. Donna Clemons (Ed.D., Sports Management, 2017)

Dr. Donna Clemons, a successful business owner in the health and fitness world, is using her new doctoral degree from the Academy to launch an additional career as a college faculty member.

Clemons is the founder and owner of a nationwide company, Christian Aerobic Exercise Inc., which establishes fitness ministry programs in churches around the country. She also works as an inspirational speaker and writer for national ministry Faithfullyfit. In her career, she has helped establish more than 1,000 Christian fitness ministries.



Dr. Donna Clemons

Clemons said her Academy degree helped her to earn a position as chair of the Department of Kinesiology and Exercise Science at Faulkner University in Montgomery, Ala.

"My greatest professional accomplishment is getting this doctorate degree through the United States Sports Academy," Clemons said. "I highly recommend the Academy. I obtained a very well-rounded education and a better understanding of how sport management works." ■



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### **Aaron Muhic (M.S.S., Sports Coaching, 1996)**

Aaron Muhic, who has more than 21 years of head basketball coaching experience in the United States, has taken on a new professional adventure — coaching in Canada. He is currently rebuilding the men's basketball program at Trinity Western University (TWU).

Muhic was hired by TWU — a Christian university in Langley, British Columbia — in 2014 after spending 13 seasons as the head men's basketball coach at William Jessup University in Rocklin, Calif. He earlier served as head coach at Warner Pacific College in Portland, Ore.

"The Academy, being a sports-only school, helped me focus and get a job in the field that I loved," he said. "The overall program was invaluable to me as a coach and sports professional." ■



Aaron Muhic

### **Jennifer Saylor (Dual M.S.S., Sports Medicine and Sports Coaching, 2001)**

Alumna Jennifer Saylor, a successful volleyball coach with experience at the high school and collegiate level, is the head coach of the women's volleyball program at Rockford University in Rockford, Ill.

Saylor previously spent five years as head volleyball coach at both Morton High School in Morton, Ill., and the Capital Volleyball Academy in Madison, Wisc. She also served as head volleyball coach for four years at Lake Forest College in Illinois as well as six years at Illinois College. She has also coached softball at the collegiate level.

"I met so many great people at the Academy who ended up being fantastic resources for me throughout my career," Saylor said. "The management classes have assisted me with operating a budget, with marketing for recruiting, and with travel organization and preparation." ■



Jennifer Saylor

### **Joe Stewart (M.S.S., Sports Coaching, 1991)**

Alumnus Joe Stewart, the Madison Plains High School boys basketball coach, was recently recognized by the Ohio High School Basketball Coaches Association (OHSBCA) for collecting his 300th career victory.

Stewart is known in Ohio as one of the state's foremost basketball program rebuilders, having taken five separate programs from "worst to first" in their respective conferences. He was inducted into the OHSBCA District 14 Hall of Fame in 2014. Named the head coach at Madison Plains High School in London, Ohio, two years ago, he led the Golden Eagles to a 13-9 record this season, the school's first winning season in any boys sport in seven years.

"I have lived a blessed life as a coach and the Academy, its unique program, and the people I encountered there have been one of the catalysts for that. I highly recommend the Academy and its programs for anyone truly serious about reaching their potential in any sports industry." ■



Joe Stewart

### **Derek Williams (B.S.S., Sports Studies, 2014)**

Derek Williams was recently hired as head women's basketball coach at Wilberforce University in Ohio. He said his Academy mentorship helped launch his career as a college basketball coach.

Williams is the former head women's basketball coach at Cincinnati Christian University and a basketball staff member at Cincinnati State Technical and Community College, where he served in various roles including interim head coach.

Williams has risen through the ranks of basketball coaching, from his beginning as a middle school coach to leading a collegiate program.

"Earning my degree from the Academy has helped me tremendously," Williams said. "I did my Academy mentorship at Cincinnati State Technical and Community College, and the mentorship helped me land an interim coaching position there. My coursework while at the Academy also helped prepare me by providing me with the background knowledge, scientific research and information needed to progress in today's world of sports." ■



Derek Williams

## **IN MEMORIAM**

### **Mourning the Loss of Lynn Conkwright**

The Academy mourns the loss of alumna Lynn Hadley Conkwright, a women's bodybuilding pioneer who passed away at age 63 on 14 June 2017.

Conkwright, of Virginia Beach, Va., earned her Master of Sports Science degree in fitness management in 1988. Conkwright became the first Academy student to receive certification as a bodybuilding coach after the Academy began offering its Master of Sports Science degree in fitness management.

She became a well-known figure in bodybuilding after winning the 1981 International Federation of Bodybuilding and Fitness (IFBB) women's and mixed pairs world titles. She competed in many of the early contests that were pivotal to the growth of women's bodybuilding. She finished in the top 10 in the IFBB Ms. Olympia contest five times and won the title of NPC Miss Virginia Beach in 1980.

In 1984, she represented women's bodybuilding in the ABC Network's "Superstars" competition, where she first met tennis superstar Martina Navratilova. Soon after the meeting, Conkwright began working as Navratilova's weight training coach.

In 2003, Conkwright was inducted into the IFBB Hall of Fame. She had previously worked for bodybuilding industry mogul Ben Weider, the co-founder — along with brother Joe Weider — of the IFBB. While working for Weider, Conkwright managed the company's contracted athletes, including former Mr. Universe Lou Ferrigno. ■



Lynn Conkwright poses with partner Chris Dickerson in this photo from a 1988 Academy publication. Conkwright and Dickerson, who won Mr. Olympia in 1982, both are members of the International Federation of Bodybuilders Hall of Fame.

## Biles Presented with Female Athlete of the Year Award

The Academy presented Olympic gymnast Simone Biles (right) with its Female Athlete of the Year Award for 2016. Academy non-resident faculty member Dr. Donn C. Renwick presented Biles with the award on 29 June 2017, at the World Champions Centre in Spring, Texas, where she currently resides.

Biles, an American gymnast, won four gold medals and one bronze medal at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games. Biles won gold with Team USA in the women's team all-around and won individual gold in the women's individual all-around, women's vault, and the women's floor exercise. Her bronze medal came in the women's beam. She also won the gold medal in the all-around competition at the 2016 Pacific Rim Gymnastics Championships and won the all-around title at the 2016 U.S. Olympic trials in gymnastics with an overall two-day total of 123.25.

The Male and Female Athlete of the Year Awards are the culmination of the Academy's yearlong selection process through which outstanding accomplishments of men and women in sports from around the globe are recognized. Each month, the public is invited to participate in the Academy's worldwide Athlete of the Month program by nominating athletes and then voting online during the first week of every month. The online votes are used to guide the Academy selection committee in choosing the male and female monthly winners, who then become eligible for selection to the prestigious Athlete of the Year ballot. ■



## Durand Earns Samaranch Disabled Athlete Award



Cuban sprinter Omara Durand, the world's fastest female Paralympic athlete, received the Academy's 2016 Juan Antonio Samaranch IOC Disabled Athlete Award.

The award was presented to Durand at the Coliseum of Havana's Sports City on 11 April 2017 by

Roberto Leon Richard, Vice President of the National Institute of Sports, Physical Education and Recreation. Also present for the presentation were Durand's daughter, Erika, and her trainer, Miriam Ferrer.

Durand won gold medals in the 100 meter, 200 meter and 400 meter T12 events and broke world records in both the 100 meter and 400 meter events in the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games. Durand's performance cemented her place as the world's fastest female Paralympian, having already won two gold medals in the London 2012 Paralympics. Durand is visually impaired and relies on a guide who runs beside her with a tether to make sure she stays in the correct lane. ■

## Sports Writer Hersh Receives Distinguished Service Award

Philip Hersh (left), a long-time sports writer for the *Chicago Tribune*, received a 2016 Distinguished Service Award from the Academy for his commitment to reporting on the global world of sport, including his notable coverage of the Olympic Games.

Hersh received the award from Academy Board of Visitors Chairman Dr. Robert Goldman on 18 April 2017 at Goldman's home in Chicago, Ill. Goldman, the co-founder and current chairman of the

American Academy of Anti-Aging Medicine, won the Academy's 2012 Dwight D. Eisenhower Fitness Award and founded the International Sports Hall of Fame.

Hersh's career at the *Chicago Tribune* began in 1984, and he quickly convinced his editor the newspaper needed a reporter dedicated to covering all aspects of the Olympics – sports, bureaucracy, politics – full time. For three decades and eight different *Chicago Tribune* sports editors, Hersh reported on events and issues on five continents and in 50 countries.

A graduate of Yale University with a major in French, Hersh was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize four times and earned multiple writing awards from the Associated Press Sports Editors and the Chicago Headline Club. He was also honored by the Chicago Society of Black Journalists. ■



## IN MEMORIAM

The Academy mourns the recent loss of former Awards of Sport honorees, who were influential leaders in the world of sport.

### USA Swimming Director Chuck Wielgus

Chuck Wielgus was the longtime Executive Director of USA Swimming. Wielgus was the recipient of the 2016 Honorary Doctorate.

### International Sports Leader Hector F. Cardona

Hector Cardona, recipient of the 2016 International Honorary Doctorate, was an international leader instrumental in the success of sport in Central America, South America and the Caribbean. He was the president of the Central American and Caribbean Sport Organization.

### Sports Illustrated Writer Frank Deford

Frank Deford spent five decades as one of the top writers for *Sports Illustrated* and four decades as a sports commentator on National Public Radio. He was the 1985 recipient of the Ronald Reagan Media Award.

### Former Steelers President Dan Rooney

Former Pittsburgh Steelers President Dan Rooney, a Pro Football Hall of Famer, paved the way for minority coaches in the NFL. Rooney received the 2009 Theodore Roosevelt Meritorious Achievement Award. ■

## Rio 2016 Olympic Posters

The Academy is continuing a longstanding tradition of collecting and displaying official Olympic posters by adding a full set of official Rio 2016 Olympic Games posters to the ASAMA public sports art collection.

The collection includes 13 official posters, as well as posters featuring the logos for the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Only a small number of sets of the posters were produced.

The Academy was able to procure a full set of the highly sought after posters because of its broad network of contacts in the international world of sports. Academy National Faculty member Daniel Bertorelli of Brazil, and his wife, Sansarah, were instrumental in assisting the Academy in securing the official posters from Rio. Bertorelli also gave credit for securing the posters to Rio 2016 Committee members Dr. Carlos Arthur Nuzman, president; Mario Andrada, director of communications; Carla Camurati, director of culture; and Jose Nascimento Brito, council member. ■



Pipas e Sonhos by Kobra

## Bubba Watson Original Painting

An original painting of golfer Bubba Watson winning his historic second Masters championship by Rick Rush, world renowned sports artist and Academy 2011 Sport Artist of the Year, has been donated to the ASAMA collection.

Known worldwide for his colorful paintings that depict a variety of sports, Rush presented the original work, titled "Right on Course," to ASAMA after an anonymous benefactor purchased the painting to donate to the museum, where the work is now on permanent display.

Watson won the Masters championship at Augusta National Golf Club in Georgia in both 2012 and 2014, becoming only the 17th golfer to win the tournament's coveted green jack twice since the event began in 1934. Rush said "Right on Course" depicts Watson at a time when a new group of golfers would step into the spotlight previously occupied by the greats like Jack Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer and Jerry Pate.

In the painting, Rush depicted Watson wearing the shirt he wore when he won the 2014 championship. The painting also features Watson's signature pink driver, which he is known for using in support of breast cancer awareness.

Rush said the name, "Right on Course," is perfect for the piece because the Masters at Augusta National was the right course for Watson at the right time. ■



"Right on Course"

## Iranian Wrestler Sculpture Unveiled

The North American Iranian Friendship Society presented ASAMA with a bronze sculpture of the late legendary Iranian wrestler and national hero Jahan Pahlavan Takhti at a special ceremony held on the Academy's campus on 3 October 2017.

Created by sculptor Dr. Alireza Khaghani of Tehran, the three-foot, 110-pound statue depicts the Olympic and World Champion wrestler giving a wave of salutation and celebration.

The wrestler's given name was Gholamreza Takhti, but he was popularly called "Jahan Pahlavan," which means "World Champion." The Iranian people gave him this name for his success in wrestling and his chivalrous behavior and sportsmanship during competition. The Tehran native was known throughout his home country not only for his athletic accomplishments, but for being a hero of common people and for supporting the poor and downtrodden.

Born in 1930, Takhti won his first Iranian championship in 1950, and went on to become the highest ranked wrestler in the history of Iranian wrestling. In the Olympic Games, he won one gold (1956 Melbourne) and two silver medals (1952 Helsinki, 1960 Rome). In World Championships, he won two gold (1959 Tehran, 1961 Yokohama) and two silver medals (1951 Helsinki, 1962 Toledo). He is in the United World Wrestling (formerly FILA) Hall of Fame. Takhti died in 1968 at the age of 37 but remains one of Iran's greatest sports legends and a beloved national figure.

"The Academy and ASAMA are especially appreciative of the North American Iranian Friendship Society for making this gift to our sport art collection for the permanent enjoyment of our museum visitors," said Academy President and CEO Dr. T.J. Rosandich.

"The Academy, a world renowned leader in sport education, hosted a significant cultural exchange with the Iranian Body Building group in 2016, bringing the group to campus for an advanced body building program. The group was so taken with ASAMA that the leader of the delegation expressed an interest in having Iran represented in ASAMA's permanent art collection, another example of the indelible connection between sport and art.

"We were pleased that as the students departed, they remembered their promise, which led to the creation of this excellent work of art, which represents a significant cultural exchange between our two countries."

The unveiling featured remarks by Babak Takhti, son of the legendary wrestler, who was born in Iran and now resides in Henderson, Nev.

"My dad died before I was born, but when I was a child, then a teen, a dad, and now as I am closer to becoming a retired person, he has always spoken to me," Takhti said.

"He was more than an athlete; he showed his love and respect for his people. He cared about the poor and unfortunate people. He was always a helping and giving person."

"I have no doubt in my mind that this is great news for the people of Iran and the U.S. and will bring the people of the countries closer together," said Vahid Abideh, founder and CEO of the society, which has offices in Tehran and New York City. ■



Members of the Academy's Art Committee participated in the sculpture unveiling ceremony. From left are committee members Kay Daughdrill; B.J. Cooper; and chair Nancy Raia; Babak Takhti, son of the late Jahan Pahlavan Takhti; Academy Founding President and committee member Dr. Thomas P. Rosandich; Ebrahim Maghsoud, NAIFS President and President of the Hafez Corp. in Mobile, Ala.; Vahid Abideh, NAIFS Founder and CEO and Secretary General of Iran's Young Journalists Society; committee member emerita and Academy Trustee Susan McCollough; and committee member B'Beth Weldon.

## McCollough Earns Multiple Honors, Publishes Book

Academy Board of Visitors member and Awards of Sport honoree Dr. Gaylon McCollough has recently earned multiple honors and published a new book.

McCollough, who lives in Gulf Shores, Ala., was the Academy's 2015 Theodore Roosevelt Meritorious Achievement Award winner.

The Alabama Sports Hall of Fame (ASHOF) Board of Directors honored McCollough as 2017 Distinguished Sportsman at the ASHOF 49th Induction Banquet.

A renowned facial plastic surgeon, McCollough was previously a member of the ASHOF Board of Directors. He has been involved since the beginning with the Bryant-Jordan Student-Athlete Scholarship Program, which annually awards more than 100 scholarships to high school seniors based on athletic and scholastic achievement.

McCollough was also recently presented The University of Alabama (UA) National Alumni Association's highest award for an alumni-athlete, the Paul W. Bryant Alumni-Athlete Award.

The award was presented to McCollough during halftime of Alabama's first home game of the 2017 football season. It recognizes former athletes for outstanding accomplishments since leaving the university. Selection is based on character, contributions to society, professional achievement and service to fellow man. Former recipients include Green Bay Packers All-Pro quarterback and coach Bart Starr and Dallas Cowboys All-Pro linebacker Lee Roy Jordan.

McCollough is a former Academic All-American center for legendary head coach Paul "Bear" Bryant and was a member of the University of

Alabama's national championship team in 1964, graduating with honors in 1965. After graduation, he attended medical school at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB), ultimately becoming one of the nation's leading facial plastic surgeons.

McCollough was earlier honored twice by the All-American Football Foundation, with its "Distinguished American" and "Un-Sung Hero" Awards, and is a member of the Wiregrass Sports Hall of Fame.

In addition to his substantial contributions to sport, McCollough has received national and international recognition in his field of facial plastic surgery, including being listed in "Best Doctors in America" since 1994, "America's Top Plastic Surgeons," "America's Best Physicians," and as a member of the National Academy of Medicine. He also served as commissioner on the State of Alabama's Medical Licensure Commission.

McCollough is also a prolific writer. In addition to numerous medical texts, he has written more than a dozen political thriller novels and non-fiction books about key political issues in the United States and around the world.

His latest book, released in June 2017, is entitled, "The Anti-Trump Conspiracy: Evidence that the Malevolence Against the 45th President is Steeped in Luciferianism." ■



Dr. Gaylon McCollough

## Academy Earns Highest Financial Management Rating

The Academy received the highest possible rating of "3" on the U.S. Department of Education's latest annual financial responsibility test, which was released in 2017 and covers the 2014-15 fiscal year. The annual test looks at income, equity and reserves to rate the financial health of the nation's colleges and universities. ■



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## Support Your Academy During the Annual Fundraising Drive

The Academy is currently reaching out to faculty, staff, students, alumni, friends and supporters during its annual fundraising drive. All who believe in the Academy and its missions of teaching, research and service are encouraged to participate.

The Academy was founded nearly a half century ago on the belief that the quality of sport education and coaching needed to be improved if American athletes were to perform competitively and safely at the top levels in sport.

Now known around the world as "America's Sports University®," the Academy is the nation's largest sports university with thousands of graduates at the bachelor's, master's and doctoral degree levels. The Academy has changed lives by launching successful careers in sport, and these graduates have elevated sport and the sport profession worldwide.

In addition to its teaching programs, the Academy's research and service programs have also touched countless lives in its community and around the world.

As an independent, non-profit institution that does not receive state or federal appropriations, the Academy must continue to be creative to find the right mix of funding to enable it to continue achieving its objectives. Private giving is an important part of this equation.

The Academy asks for your generous support as it continues to touch lives and enhance sport and the sport profession. The Academy asks that you make a tax-deductible gift today and that you remember the institution as you make your long-term philanthropic plans. You can give immediately by going to [www.ussa.edu/donate](http://www.ussa.edu/donate) or by calling the Academy at (251) 626-3303. ■

## Academy Founder Dr. Thomas P. Rosandich Inducted into Mobile Sports Hall of Fame

Dr. Thomas P. Rosandich, Founding President of the Academy and a long-time leader in sport and sport education around the globe, was inducted into the Mobile (Ala.) Sports Hall of Fame (MSHOF) at the 2017 Induction Banquet on 6 April 2017, at Mobile's Battle House Hotel.

Founded in 1988, the Mobile Sports Hall of Fame honors the city of Mobile's many heroes and influential figures in the world of sports. The Mobile area boasts a sports legacy that includes five National Baseball Hall of Fame inductees, National Football League and NCAA championship athletes, All-Americans, Olympians, record setters and legendary coaches and athletic leaders.

The latest honor comes just months after Rosandich was awarded an

Honorary Doctorate by the Academy for his long-time leadership. The Academy's Board of Trustees also honored Rosandich by naming the "Thomas P. Rosandich Gallery" for him, recognizing his creation of the American Sport Art Museum and Archives (ASAMA), which has provided cultural enrichment to thou-



Dr. Thomas P. Rosandich discusses the founding of the Academy at his recent induction into the MSHOF.

sands of people. Rosandich also recently was named to the International Sports Hall of Fame (ISHOF), a non-profit foundation established by internationally known fitness expert Dr. Robert M. Goldman "to honor the world's greatest athlete legends in all sports." ■



Dr. Thomas P. Rosandich (center) was inducted into the MSHOF by Joe Gottfried (left), MSHOF chairman and long-time University of South Alabama director of athletics, and Peter Albrecht, MSHOF president and news anchor for WKRG News 5 in Mobile.

## Academy Signs Articulation Agreement with Stillman College to Benefit Students Seeking Careers in the Sport Profession

The Academy recently entered into an articulation agreement with Stillman College that aims to help students from the historically black college pursue careers in the world of sport.

Stillman College President Dr. Cynthia Warrick recently visited the Academy campus in Daphne, Ala., to sign the agreement with Academy President and CEO Dr. T.J. Rosandich. Stillman is a historically black liberal arts college located in Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Under the agreement, the Academy will admit qualified students from Stillman's bachelor's degree program into its Master of Sports Science degree program, which offers majors in sports coaching, sports health and fitness, sports management, sports studies and recreation management. The Academy's master's degree is a fully online, flexible program that allows students to enroll and start at any time, as well as complete the degree at their own pace.



Stillman College President Dr. Cynthia Warrick (left) signs an articulation agreement with Academy President and CEO Dr. T.J. Rosandich.

"This will benefit our students because the Academy faculty members are experts in the world of sports," she said. "I think having these direct links to the Academy programs will give them a path to a career. This will make it easier for them to find their path."

"The Academy is very pleased to be able to partner with such an historic institution and a fellow member of the Alabama Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (AAICU)," Rosandich said. "This agreement benefits students and faculty from both institutions." ■

The Academy will also waive application fees for any Stillman student graduating with a physical education degree and will allow Stillman students to begin Academy coursework without official graduation status, provided all other admission requirements are met. Qualified members of the Stillman faculty may also be invited to become members of the Academy's National Faculty, a group of faculty who teach for the Academy's post-secondary non-degree international sports education programs.

The Academy also offers an upper division Bachelor of Sports Science degree program that provides the subject specific courses typically taken during the student's junior and senior years. The agreement provides for Academy bachelor's students to be able to take their required general curriculum core coursework at Stillman; these courses typically are taken in the freshman and sophomore years.

"This agreement creates an opportunity for our students in physical education and related majors to get their graduate studies and experience from an excellent academic program," Warrick said. "Physical education is one of our largest majors so many of those students are looking to get certification as teachers or coaches and they are interested in sports careers. This will be really important for our students."

## Academy Embarks on Reaffirmation of Accreditation



Dr. John S. Hardt (seated center), SACSCOC vice president, recently met with the Academy President's Cabinet and faculty members on the Academy's accreditation reaffirmation leadership team.

"The United States Sports Academy continuously evaluates its academic programs and services to ensure that they are of the highest quality and that they meet the needs of students and employers in the modern world of sport," said Academy President and Chief Executive Officer Dr. T.J. Rosandich.

"The accreditation affirmation process provides an important mechanism through which the Academy formally and thoroughly evaluates progress toward achieving its mission, and we look forward to using the process to continue to build on our tradition of academic excellence.

"The Academy is committed to accreditation and the peer review process, and is not only a member of SACSCOC, but is also a member of the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) and CHEA's International Quality Group (CIQG), which advances understanding of international quality assurance and promotes high quality higher education in today's competitive and international world."

As part of the reaffirmation process, the Academy in September submitted comprehensive reports on institutional compliance toward a wide range of SACSCOC higher education Principles. These reports will be evaluated by peer reviewers for compliance. The Academy will then receive a site visit from a peer review team in March 2018. In December 2018, the SACSCOC Board of Trustees will review the Academy's efforts toward compliance and vote on the affirmation of the Academy's accreditation.

SACSCOC's reaffirmation process has two major elements: compliance with the Principles and implementation of a "Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP)," a special project to provide continued enhancement to student learning. The Academy's upcoming QEP will focus on the use of research as a tool for student learning.

SACSCOC is the regional body for the accreditation of degree-granting higher education institutions in the Southern United States. It serves as the common denominator of shared values and practices among the diverse institutions in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and Latin America and other international sites approved by the Commission.

The mission of SACSCOC is to assure the educational quality and improve the effectiveness of its member institutions. Its vision is to serve as the premier model for shaping and ensuring the quality of higher education throughout the world. ■

## Board of Visitors Members Participate in International Conference

Two members of the Academy's Board of Visitors participated in an international conference of global sport leaders dedicated to increasing the positive impact of sport and physical education on sustainability and improved quality of life throughout the world.

Dr. Giovanni Di Cola and Dr. Tomas Ganda Sithole attended the Sixth International Conference of Ministers and Senior Officials Responsible for Physical Education and Sport (MINEPS VI), held in Kazan, Russian Federation, from 13-15 July 2017.

Di Cola serves as Special Advisor in the International Labour Office (ILO) in Geneva, Switzerland. Sithole, of Zimbabwe, is Secretary General of African Sport and former Director of International Relations for the International Olympic Committee.

Sponsored by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), MINEPS VI involved representatives from more than 100 countries who adopted the Kazan Action Plan, a global sports initiative.

Di Cola spoke to the conference on the topic of enhanced employability and sustainability through skills developed through sport and physical education, and his recommendations were integrated into the Kazan Action Plan. ■



Dr. Giovanni Di Cola (left) and Dr. Tomas Ganda Sithole attended the recent MINEPS VI Conference.

## Trustee McCollough Earns International Art Awards



Artist Susan N. McCollough received ArtTour International Magazine's (ATIM) 2017 "Master's Award" for Contemporary Art and her painting, "New York, New York," was selected to appear on the front cover of ATIM's recent book, "Top 60 Masters of Contemporary Art 2017." She also received the magazine's "Artist of the Year" award for her painting, "Between the Lines." Both awards were presented recently at ATIM's Master's Awards ceremony in Florence, Italy.

Gulf Shores, Ala. Her abstract expressionist paintings have won numerous national and international awards, have been exhibited on four continents, and hang in a wide range of collections. A native of Bronx, N.Y., who grew up in Dothan, Ala., McCollough received her bachelor's degree in speech and art from the University of Alabama. She was named to Academy's Board of Trustees in 2016. She previously served 12 years on the Academy's Art Committee and remains as Artist Emerita. ■

## Trustee Cronan Wins Pat Summit Award

Academy trustee Joan Cronan, the former women's athletics director at the University of Tennessee, has been named the first recipient of the NCAA President's Pat Summit Award.

Named after the longtime Tennessee women's basketball coach, the Pat Summit Award honors an association member who has "positively influenced college athletes and their experiences through the individual's career long commitment to advocating for college sports."

Cronan, who was named to the Academy's Board of Trustees in 2014, was the Tennessee women's athletic director from 1983 until 2012. She is credited with leading the school's women's athletic teams through their most successful stretch in which Tennessee won 10 national championships and 29 Southeastern Conference (SEC) championships. Under her leadership, Tennessee expanded women's varsity sports from seven to 11 and annual giving to support women's athletics increased to \$2 million per year.

During Cronan's tenure, female student-athletes earned an average 93 percent Graduation Success Rate. She also stressed community service as part of an athletics experience at the university. She now serves as the women's athletics director emerita at Tennessee. ■



Former University of Tennessee head women's basketball coach Pat Summitt (left) received the Academy's 2011 Mildred "Babe" Didrickson Zaharias Courage Award, while Joan Cronan received the 2011 Carl Maddox Sports Management Award.

## Long-time Faculty Member Reunites with Athletes and Students

Long-time Academy faculty member Dr. James E. Thoma reunited with athletes and students he coached and taught more than 30 years ago through the Academy's international sport education programs in Malaysia and Brunei.

Following his assignments in Southeast Asia, Thoma served as the Academy's chair of sports coaching and chair of sports management during the late 1980s and has served on the National Faculty for more than three decades.



Dr. James Thoma (seated center) reunites with students and athletes he taught and coached more than three decades ago through the Academy's programs in Sabah, Malaysia.

The Academy has been active in sport education programs in Southeast Asia for more than four decades. The Academy provided a team of coaches and other sport specialists to develop the State-wide sports efforts on the island of Borneo in conjunction with the Malaysia-Sabah Foundation from 1984-1987. The team consisted of four coaches and a sports medicine specialist. Concurrently the Academy delivered its International Certification in Sports Coaching and Sports Management programs to help prepare Sabahans to assume sport leadership roles in the State.

Thoma served as sports administrator, project director and state track coach for USSA-Sabah, Malaysia. He then served as sports administrator and national track coach for USSA-Brunei Darussalam. He recently reunited with students and athletes he met through both assignments more than three decades ago.

As a member of the Academy's National Faculty, Thoma most recently taught for the Academy in Shanghai, China, in the International Sports Diploma program delivered to the Shanghai Administration of Sports in 2014. ■



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