

Academy Founding President Dr. Thomas P. Rosandich Steps Down after 43 Years

Dr. Thomas P. Rosandich, the founding President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Academy, stepped down from his position at the helm of the institution that he founded and served since 1972. In their Annual Meeting held on Friday, 6 November 2015, the Academy's Board of Trustees accepted the resignation of Rosandich and concurrently voted to name him as President Emeritus. In the role of President Emeritus, Rosandich will remain engaged with the institution focusing on fundraising, alumni affairs, the Academy's Award of Sport program and international relations.

In the same meeting, the Trustees voted Dr. Thomas J. Rosandich, the former Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, to succeed Dr. Thomas P. Rosandich as the President and CEO of the Academy (*see page 4*).

The Academy was founded as a special-mission institution of sport offering master's degrees in Sports Medicine, Sports Coaching and Sports Management. Over the years, additional disciplines of study, such as Recreation Management, Sports Exercise Science and Sports Studies were added to the curriculum. The Academy received its initial accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) in 1983 at the master's degree level. The Academy went on to receive accreditation for its Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) degree in Sports Management in 1996 and for a Bachelor of Sports Science (B.S.S.) degree



Dr. Thomas P. Rosandich

in four disciplines in 2004. The Academy currently enrolls approximately 900 students at all degree levels, the vast majority of these pursuing their course work through online distance learning. Since the founding of the institution



The first two Academy graduates in 1979 were Carmen Charnook-Cellon (left center), whose first job was as an Athletic Trainer for the U.S. Secret Service, and Viki Ray (right), who became the Head Athletic Trainer for Women's Sports Teams at Louisiana State University. Also shown are Dr. Thomas P. Rosandich (left) and University of South Alabama President Dr. Frederick Whiddon.

in 1972, the Academy has conferred almost 5,000 sport-specific degrees to its students. The Academy has also touched the lives of countless thousands of others working in the sport profession through its certification and diploma programs that are largely delivered abroad. The Academy remains the only free-standing regionally accredited sports university in the country.

Rosandich has had a long and storied career in the profession of sport dating to the early 1950s. During this time, he embarked upon a career as a coach in football and track and field, an avocation that eventually had him named to the Helms Track and Field Hall of Fame. As a sports administrator, he has served as an athletic director within the University of Wisconsin system and then as President of the Academy for more than 43 years. His contributions to worldwide sports also earned him recognition from the Emir of Bahrain who conferred upon him the "Order of Bahrain – First Class" for his efforts in building that nation's first international caliber sports programs. Rosandich also received the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) "Olympic Order" for his work as a member of the IOC's Commission for Olympic Education and Culture, work also recognized by the U.S. Olympic Committee (USOC) with their "USOC President's Award."

A highly regarded track coach, his athletes included numerous Olympic and world record holders (*continued on next page*).



Tom Brady
 Male Athlete of the Year
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MISSION STATEMENT:

The United States Sports Academy is an independent, non-profit, regionally 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 United States Sports Academy is regionally accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award baccalaureate, master's, and doctoral degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 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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(continued from cover) Among these were Bob Mathias, an Olympic Champion and world record holder decathlete, Josh Culbreath, a world record holder in the 400 meter hurdles, Al Cantello in the javelin, and Bob Gutowski in the pole vault. Gutowski was first in a succession of four world record holders in the pole vault, a group that included John Uelses who was the first person to go over 16 feet. Also at that time, the world was transfixed by the duel between Roger Bannister and Wes Santee to see who would be the first to break the four-minute barrier in the mile. While Bannister won the duel, Santee was the best middle distance runner in the U.S. at the time and was a mainstay in Rosandich's stable of athletes.

Recognizing his talents as a coach, the U.S. State Department appointed him as a Sports Ambassador and tasked him with using sport as a vehicle for elevating America's relationship with nations throughout the world. This was an appointment that would eventually take him to 43 nations and helped lay the foundation for much of the work that the Academy would undertake in later years. While his first stop was the Kingdom of Laos, the first national team he took to an international competition was Malaya - which was eventually to become Malaysia. The Academy still works in Malaysia to this day.

Following his assignment for the State Department, Rosandich, then an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps, served as the All-Marine Coach and founded the Marine Corps Schools Relays at Quantico, Va., which became one of the premier events on the track and field circuit in the mid-1950s. Following a successful coaching career with the Corps, Rosandich



Dr. Thomas P. Rosandich (bottom row, center right) and R. Maladi (bottom row, center left), Indonesia's Minister of Youth and Sports, pose for a picture with members of the 1962 Indonesia track and field team.

Political turmoil in Indonesia caused him to leave his post there. Upon returning to the U.S., Rosandich founded Olympia Sport Village in Upson, Wis. At the time, Olympia was the only dedicated all-season sports camp in the nation. Individual athletes and sports teams from throughout the U.S. would make an annual trek to the north woods of Wisconsin to hone their skills under a very fine coaching staff drawn from colleges and universities throughout the country. These coaches also served as clinicians in the annual coaching clinics organized by Rosandich with the objective of instilling professional skills in the coaching profession. Many of these skills he learned from observing coaches from the Eastern Bloc nations of the Soviet Union and East Germany during his tenure in Indonesia. Also while working at Olympia, he founded the Paavo Nurmi Marathon in 1969, a race that is still run every July in Hurley, Wis.

Rosandich was recruited by the Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin system to become the first Athletic Director at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside campus in Kenosha. There he played a major role in developing physical education and sport facilities for this fledgling university. The first project he completed was the design and construction of a world-class cross-country course that has since become the permanent home for the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) national cross country championships. He also brought to the campus a number of exceptional coaches, many of whom had worked with him at Olympia and elsewhere earlier in his career. From there, Rosandich went to the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee



Dr. Thomas P. Rosandich (left), the Head Track and Field Coach of the Quantico Marines, is pictured with the best mile relay team in the U.S. in 1956, including (from left to right) Wes Santee (Kansas), Everett Trader (Occidental), Bill Taylor (USC) and Cordell Brown (Utah State).

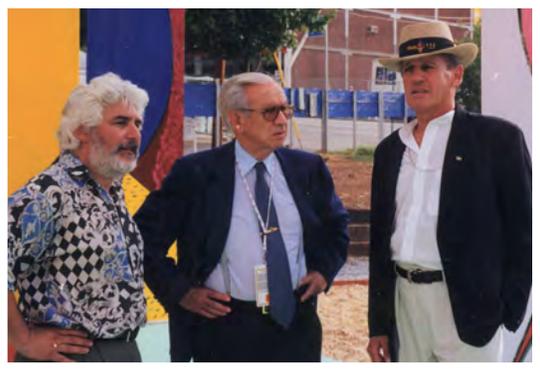
returned to Southeast Asia where he was appointed as the National Track and Field Coach for Indonesia. While in Djakarta, Rosandich spent four years developing the Indonesian national teams and preparing them for both the Asian and Olympic Games. During his tenure as the Indonesian coach, combined with his earlier experience in a number of nations in the region from his State Department days, he recognized the need for these teams to receive more seasoning in international competition in order to successfully compete against the powerhouses of Japan and Korea. Thus Rosandich played a pivotal role in the establishment of the Southeast Asian Games, a quadrennial event that also continues to this day.



His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa of Bahrain (left) and Dr. Thomas P. Rosandich meet to discuss sport development efforts.

as the Athletic Director and became actively engaged in a number of professional associations whose mission was to develop professional skills in sports among which was the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NACDA).

An astute observer of the sports profession, he was very much concerned with the detrimental effect that the franchise fights that were prevalent at the time between the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU), the governing body for five major Olympic sports, and the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) were having on American sports. This was also the time that there emerged a body of research, such as that done by the faculty at the University of North Carolina, entitled the Blyth-Mueller Report. The Blyth-Mueller Report proved conclusively the correlation between the professional preparation of coaches and the number and severity of the injuries to their athletes. Rosandich had seen first-hand and understood that untrained coaches tended to hurt their athletes, a fact compounded by a lack of sports medicine (athletic training) available in the country at the time. Concurrently, the subpar performance of the U.S. Olympic Team at the 1972 Munich Games highlighted the need to address



systemic problems with sport in the country. This belief became the impetus that launched the formation of the Academy in 1972. Rosandich believed that education for those who aspired to a career in sports was the key to solving these problems.

1992 Sport Artist of the Year Cristóbal Gabarrón (left), the late IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch (center) and Dr. Thomas P. Rosandich tour *The Atlanta Star*, a monumental work of sculpture by Gabarrón formed of 26 statues, each representing the political, social and athletic aspects of a particular Summer Olympic Games from 1896 to 1996.

bring this vision to life. He called upon his colleagues at NACDA to serve as the first Board of Visitors for the Academy to develop a curriculum that could be taught in an academic setting. Many of the luminaries in NACDA went on to become members of the Academy's Board of Trustees, a relationship that continues to this day.

Once again, Rosandich turned to his network of coaches and administrators to help bring this vision to life. He called upon his colleagues at NACDA to serve as the first Board of Visitors for the Academy to develop a curriculum that could be taught in an academic setting. Many of the luminaries in NACDA went on to become members of the Academy's Board of Trustees, a relationship that continues to this day.

Recognizing that were he to succeed in bringing his vision embodied in the Academy to life, he would need to resign from his position as Athletic Director at UW-Milwaukee and focus full-time on the development of the Academy to build it into the institution that it is today. Given the breadth of his experience in the world of international sport, Rosandich pursued and signed his first major international contract in 1976 with the State of Bahrain, a small island nation in the Arabian Gulf. Through this program, the Academy undertook the full-charge conduct of the national sport effort of that nation. Rosandich brought to the country a number of national caliber coaches in different sports while building the first sport medicine center, human performance laboratory and strength and conditioning center in the Arab Middle East. From this start, the Academy has gone on to develop and deliver sport education programs in more than 66 nations around the world. It is significant to note that the revenue generated through the international programs conducted by the Academy subsidized the education of literally thousands of American graduate students who obtained their degrees from the institution.

Another significant development that occurred in 1976 was the relocating of the Academy from Milwaukee to the campus of the University of South Alabama in Mobile. There, Rosandich continued to grow the insti-

tuition both through student enrollments and international programs including one that lasted more than 14 years in Saudi Arabia. Rosandich left an indelible mark on the South Alabama campus having arranged for the installation of their first 400 meter all-weather track, a world-class sport medicine center, a human performance lab and a fully equipped strength and conditioning center. The Academy also launched innovative programs such as Operation Bounce-Back, the first cardiac rehabilitation program in Mobile that over the years has greatly enhanced the quality of life for thousands of Mobilians who suffer from cardiovascular illness.

Over time, the Academy outgrew the facility that housed it on the university campus and the institution moved again in 1986, settling into its permanent home in Daphne, Ala. The campus, which has won architectural awards for its beauty, also houses the American Sport Art Museum and Archives (ASAMA). Founded in 1984, ASAMA embodies the enduring connection between sports and art. Through tireless effort, Rosandich built the collection from a half dozen pieces into a world-recognized museum housing almost 1,900 pieces in all mediums whose estimated value is more than \$12 million. It is thought to be the largest museum of the sport genre in the entire world. In recognition of the uniqueness of the facility and collection, the main campus building was dedicated by then Alabama Governor Fob James in 1998 as the American Sport Art Museum and Archives.

One of the little ironies of the Academy is that while it is the only free-standing regionally accredited sports university in the U.S., it does not field any collegiate sports teams. This unique feature of the Academy was a consequence of how it evolved from a graduate school to one having an undergraduate program that is entirely online. Regardless, Rosandich thought it appropriate that the Academy, possessed of its expertise in the various disciplines of sports, was ideally suited to recognize those individuals who have made substantial contributions to the sports profession. From this inspiration was born in 1984 the Academy's Awards of Sport whose theme is a "Tribute to the Artist and the Athlete." This program was initially held annually in Mobile or Point Clear as a black-tie event. While the format has changed over the years, the Awards of Sport program continues to this day and over the years has recognized the most notable sports personalities from all corners of the globe. These



include sport artists, athletes, coaches, media personalities, philanthropists, scientists and administrators. The Academy remains the only institution in the Mobile area that has brought five heads of state to the port city as a part of its awards and recognition programs.

In 1982 Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos became the first head of state to visit the Academy and the Mobile area. Since its founding, the Academy has brought five heads of state to the area, including Kay Rala Xanana Gusmao of Timor-Leste; His Excellency Najib Tun Razak of Malaysia; His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa of Bahrain; and Prince Albert Alexandre Louis Pierre Grimaldi of Monaco.



Late President Ronald Reagan (left) and Dr. Thomas P. Rosandich present the Ronald Reagan Media Award to sportscaster Al Michaels (right) in 1988.

As Rosandich noted in his remarks to the assembled Trustees, "I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your unconditional support that you have given me over the years, and the opportunity to educate a generation of sports professionals. It has been a good ride and I hope that my bold aspirations will continue to guide our efforts to create a better future for our students, the Academy and our society." n

Alumnus Dr. Thomas J. Rosandich Named President and CEO of the U.S. Sports Academy

The Academy has named alumnus, faculty member and long-time senior administrator Dr. Thomas J. Rosandich as the institution's second President and Chief Executive Officer.

The Board of Trustees made the appointment at its Annual Meeting in November, following the resignation of the founding President, Dr. Thomas P. Rosandich, who was named President Emeritus after 43 years of service.

Rosandich, who had most recently served as Vice President and Chief Operating Officer (COO), has served the Academy for more than 34 years as a faculty member and in numerous leadership positions. In addition to 13 years as Vice President and COO, he has served as Vice President and Chief Academic Officer, Vice President for Development, Vice President for International Development, and Dean of Administration and Finance. The new President is the son of the founding President and has been involved with the institution in some capacity throughout most of his life.

"It is almost a cliché, but my first time full-time position with the Academy was in the mailroom," said Rosandich. "Over the years, there has been virtually no job that I have not done within the walls of the institution. I found it extremely gratifying that the Board of Trustees recognized my contributions to the Academy over the years and appointed me to lead the institution forward as we head into our ten year reaffirmation of accreditation."

Based in Daphne, Ala., the Academy, known around the world as "America's Sports University," is the only regionally accredited, free-standing sports university in the U.S. offering degrees at the bachelor's, master's and doctoral levels. With 900 students enrolled in the Academy's degree programs annually, and nearly 5,000 graduates, it is one of the nation's largest sports education programs.

Rosandich holds two degrees from the Academy: the Master of Sport Science in Sports Management (1989) and the Doctor of Education in Sports Management (1999). He earned his Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration at Columbia Pacific University in 1988. Rosandich was named the Academy's 1994 Alumnus of the Year for his contributions to the institution primarily through his work on its international projects. The Board of Trustees also voted to confer on him a 2015 Distinguished Service Award in recognition of his contributions to both the Academy and the sports profession through more than 34 years of work here and abroad.

While Rosandich's first regular position at the Academy was as a purchasing coordinator in 1982,

he had been involved with the institution dating back to 1976 when he led a study tour to the Montreal Summer Olympic Games. Moving from the role in purchasing, Rosandich was assigned to a wholly owned Academy subsidiary, the American Institute for Sport Design (AISD). Through his work at AISD, Rosandich developed a fascination with sports facilities that culminated in the topic for his doctoral dissertation and a contribution to a textbook on the subject. He has been a participant in 18 major sport development projects as a consultant for a number of sports organizations, both domestic and international. These have ranged from the assessment of complete national programs to the planning and design review of sport facilities for educational institutions.

Rosandich has played a key role in the Academy's ongoing numerous international collaborations and partnerships around the world. He spent nine years in Saudi Arabia where he served as the General Manager of Saudi American Sports, a sport services company in which the Academy had an ownership interest and that employed 120



From left to right, Gabon President Ali Bongo Ondimba, the Academy's 2004 Sport Artist of the Year Sergey Eylanbekov, and Dr. T.J. Rosandich present a multi-dimensional acrylic sculpture to legendary soccer player Pelé during the 2012 dedication of the Friendship Stadium in Libreville, Gabon. Rosandich was in Gabon conducting a legacy study for the government on how to best use the stadium to enhance the nation's future sports opportunities, a project representative of the numerous sports facilities planning and development initiatives in which he has been involved around the world.

coaches on contract to serve a variety of clients in the Kingdom. Rosandich also served in other roles during his stay in the Middle East including the development of sports programs in the Arabian Gulf region and as the Advisor to the President of the General Organization for Youth and Sports in the Kingdom of Bahrain. He has authored 11 published



Dr. T.J. Rosandich

papers and presented some 45 times to a wide array of conferences and organizations. These presentations have been as varied as educational accreditation, youth development and, of course, sports. His expertise in the sports realm is reflected in presentations that have included sports marketing, facilities, technology and sports management in 18 countries including Bahrain, Brazil, Botswana, China, Egypt, Gabon, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Jamaica, Malaysia, Monaco, Panama, Peru, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago and the U.S.

With the rank of professor at the Academy, he has served as a member of the faculty at all three degree levels in a wide array of sports management courses including sports facility design; the operation and maintenance of sports facilities; sports marketing, public relations and promotions; sport finance; Olympism; international sport relations; sport sociology; and computer technology applications for sports management.

Rosandich is a veteran, having served four years in the Army, including a tour with the 101st Airborne as a paratrooper. He was also very much involved with the U.S. Army's early efforts in diversity training having served for two years as a race relations and equal opportunity instructor while stationed in Germany.

He is also involved in sport, civic and social organizations including serving on the steering committee for the development of the Mobile Bay (Alabama) Sports Authority; the Commission on Sport Management and Administration of the International Council for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, Sport and Dance (ICHPER-SD); the International Sport for All Federation (FISpT); Fédération Internationale Cinéma Télévision Sportifs (FICTS) Commission for Culture, Education and Youth; the Education Committee of the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NACDA); U.S. Distance Learning Association (USDLA); Baldwin (County) United; and Mobile United. He also served as a member of the organizing committee for the World Leisure Congress held in Mobile in September 2014. n

Alabama's Championship Win Voted 2015 College Football Game of the Year

The Alabama Crimson Tide's win over the undefeated and top-ranked Clemson Tigers in the College Football Playoff National Championship was unanimously voted the 2015 College Football Game of the Year in the Academy's annual ranking.

The Tide defeated the Tigers 45-40 in an exciting, closely fought game in the University of Phoenix Stadium in Glendale, Ariz., on 11 January 2016. Alabama Head Football Coach Nick Saban now has four national championships at Alabama and five for his career. Alabama won its 16th football national championship and the fourth in seven seasons.

The playoff system this year produced two closely matched teams and a thrilling back and forth game. The game remained close through three quarters until Alabama, down 24-21 going into the fourth, outscored Clemson in the final quarter to secure the victory.



Led by senior quarterback Jake Coker, the University of Alabama Crimson Tide defeated the Clemson Tigers 45-40 in the NCAA College Football Playoff National Championship. Alabama's performance has been named the 2015 College Football Game of the Year in the Academy's annual ranking.

The game also had many exciting stories including the performance of Heisman Trophy winner Derrick Henry, superior quarterback efforts by Jake Coker and Deshaun Watson, and Clemson Head Football Coach Dabo Swinney playing against his alma mater.

The College Football Game of the Year Award was developed in 2005 by the Academy to pay tribute to a team whose efforts in a college foot-

ball game exemplify the principles of high athletic endeavor, complete dedication to victory and unified team effort. The College Football Game of the Year Award is part of the Academy's Awards of Sport series, which was established as a "Tribute to the Artist and the Athlete."

Under the Academy's College Football Game of the Year program, a Game of the Week is selected throughout the football season. From those games and all post-season play, the College Football Game of the Year is selected. Voting for the awards is done by the College Football Game of the Year Committee, which is chaired by Jack Lengyel, the former Athletic Director of the U.S. Naval Academy. Consisting of eminent sport leaders, the committee contains former athletic directors and individuals active in collegiate football who meet the criteria to serve on the committee and exhibit no bias in their vote.

In honor of each year's winner, Daniel Moore, the Academy's 2005 Sport Artist of the Year, is commissioned to create a painting commemorating the College Football Game of the Year and the paintings are on display at the Academy's American Sport Art Museum and Archives. The Academy also donates \$5,000 to the winning school's scholarship fund.

The previous College Football Game of the Year Award recipients are:

- 2006: Rutgers University: Rutgers 28, Louisville, 25
- 2007: Appalachian State University: Appalachian State 34, Michigan 32
- 2008: Texas Tech University: Texas Tech 39, Texas 33
- 2009: University of Alabama: Alabama 32, Florida 13
- 2010: Auburn University: Auburn 22, Oregon 19
- 2011: University of Alabama: Alabama 21, LSU 10
- 2012: Texas & M University: Texas A&M 29, Alabama 24
- 2013: Auburn University: Auburn 38, Alabama 34
- 2014: Ohio State University: Ohio State 42, Oregon 20
- 2015: University of Alabama: Alabama 45, Clemson 40 n

New Golf Sculpture Unveiled At Academy



Bruce Larsen stands next to his latest addition to the Academy's Sport Sculpture Park.

Nestled between tall pines and majestic oak trees, the Academy's Sport Sculpture Park features numerous works from award-winning artists.

Following the 2015 Academy's Awards of Sport program, 2009 Sport Artist of the Year Bruce Larsen unveiled a new addition to the Sport Sculpture Park. The "found art" sculpture, which depicts a golfer, celebrates the sport's return to the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympic Games in Brazil after an absence of 100 years.

Larsen, a native of Fairhope, Ala., creates sculptures from scrap materials such as driftwood, rusted appliances and pieces of metal. His masterpieces can not only be seen at the Academy, but have been shown in many noteworthy galleries such as Magazine Street Gallery in New Orleans, La., as well as the Gulf ArtSpace and Summit Galleries on the Eastern Shore of Mobile Bay. n

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ACADEMY'S AWARDS OF SPORT - 2015 HONOREES

Alumnus of the Year
CDR David Peterson, Ed.D.
 Exec. Officer, Physical Education Department
 United States Naval Academy

International Honorary Doctorate
Professor Franco Ascani
 President, Fédération Internationale
 Cinéma Télévision Sportifs

National Honorary Doctorate
David Wallechinsky
 President, International Society
 of Olympic Historians

Sport Artist of the Year
Joseph Sheppard
 Painter and Sculptor

Male Athlete of the Year
Tom Brady
 NFL Quarterback, USA

Female Athlete of the Year
Serena Williams
 Tennis, USA

Eagle Award
Gordie Howe
 Legendary Professional Hockey Player
 Detroit Red Wings

Dwight D. Eisenhower Fitness Award
Lt. Gen. Mark Hertling
 Military Fitness Training Pioneer
 United States Army (retired)

Juan Antonio Samaranch
 IOC Disabled Athlete Award
Tatyana McFadden
 Paralympian Wheelchair Racer
 2015 London Marathon Gold Medalist

Amos Alonzo Stagg Coaching Award
Geno Auremma
 Head Women's Basketball Coach
 University of Connecticut

Dr. Ernst Jokl Sports Medicine Award
Col. John Feagin, Jr., M.D. (retired)
 Former Sports Orthopedic Surgeon
 U.S. Military Academy and Duke University

Mildred "Babe" Zaharias Courage Award
Michael Somsan
 Blind Triathlete
 Ironman Competitor

Carl Maddox Sports Management Award
Dr. Kevin White
 Vice President and Director of Athletics
 Duke University

Jackie Robinson Humanitarian Award
Jean Claude Mbvoumin
 President and Founder
 Football Solidaire

Ronald Reagan Media Award
Nancy Armour
 Sports Columnist, USA Today

C. Vivian Stringer Coaching Award
Dawn Staley
 Head Women's Basketball Coach
 University of South Carolina

Jim Thorpe All-Around Athlete Award
Russell Wilson
 NFL Seattle Seahawks Quarterback
 Drafted by the MLB Baltimore Orioles

Theodore Roosevelt Meritorious Award
Gaylon McCollough, M.D.
 All-American Center for the University of Alabama
 Internationally Renowned Surgeon and Teacher

College Football Game of the Year Award
University of Alabama: Alabama 45, Clemson 40

Distinguished Service Award Recipients

Jody Conradt
 Head Women's Basketball Coach Emerita
 University of Texas

H.E. Sam Kahamba Kutesa
 69th Session President
 General Assembly of the United Nations

Dr. Julio Maglione
 President
 Uruguayan Olympic Committee

Olegario Vazquez Rana
 President
 International Shooting Sport Federation

Dr. T.J. Rosandich
 President and Chief Executive Officer
 United States Sports Academy

Dr. Michael Scott
 USA Table Tennis Hall of Fame Member
 Seven-Time National Tournament Winner

Dr. Wlodzimierz Starosta
 President
 International Association of Sport Kinetics

Sir Peter Snell
 Middle-Distance World and Olympic Record
 Holder, New Zealand's Sports Champion

Military Fitness Pioneer Honored for Contributions to Improve Nation's Health



Retired Lt. General Mark Hertling (right) received the Academy's 2015 Dwight D. Eisenhower Fitness Award for his major contributions to improve the nation's health from Dr. Gordon Howell, a long-time Academy faculty member, at Rollins College in Winter Park, Fla.

Fitness has always been important to Hertling, an Army veteran of nearly 38 years. While best known for his time in command of all U.S. Army Forces in

Europe and for leading the Army's 1st Armored Division in combat, it was his service as the commander of the Army's Initial Military Training ("basic training") where he introduced new programs affecting the physical readiness of the military. Reforms such as the "Soldier-Athlete Initiative" and "Fueling the Soldier" — both implemented to improve the physical conditioning and nutritional health of new soldiers — continue to have a lasting effect. Hertling also taught in the Department of Physical Education at West Point, where he was the first PE teacher to win the Instructor of the Year Award (1985). ■

Gamecocks' Coach Staley Recognized

Dawn Staley (left), the Head Women's Basketball Coach at the University of South Carolina, received the 2015 C. Vivian Stringer Coaching Award from Academy National Faculty member Dr. Mike Spino during their home game against the University of North Carolina, Greensboro.



The three-time Olympic gold medalist has been the head coach of the Gamecocks for seven years, but it was clear early on that the team would rise to the top with their foundation of hard work and defensive effort. Last season, the Gamecocks were ranked number one in the country, making Staley the second woman ever to have both played on and coached a number-one ranked team.

Staley also led the Gamecocks to their first NCAA Final Four appearance. After three consecutive 25 plus-win seasons, the Gamecocks dominated with 34 wins during the 2014-2015 season, which included their second consecutive SEC regular-season championship and second straight number one seed in the NCAA Tournament. While at South Carolina, Staley has accrued a 155-74 record and has led the team to four 20-win seasons and four straight NCAA Tournaments. ■

Serena Williams and Tom Brady Voted Academy's Athletes of the Year



By Edwin Martinez from The Bronx via Wikimedia Commons



By Jeffrey Beall (Own work) [CC BY-SA 3.0], via Wikimedia Commons

Tennis great Serena Williams and New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady were voted the Male and Female Athletes of the Year for 2015.

Brady completed a Super Bowl record 37 passes, including four touchdowns, to lead the New England Patriots in 2015 to their fourth Super Bowl victory, earning his third Super Bowl MVP award in the win over the Seattle Seahawks in Super Bowl 49. Brady is the first NFL starting quarterback to appear in six Super Bowls. He led his Patriots to another playoff berth as the 2015 season came to a close.

Williams maintained her number one global ranking in women's tennis by winning three major titles in 2015 – the French Open, Wimbledon and Australian Open – bringing her Grand Slam titles to 21. This includes winning four straight majors going back to the 2014 U.S. Open, thus completing the “Serena Slam” – winning four straight majors – for the second time. Williams was also named Sports Illustrated's 2015 Sports person of the Year.

The Athlete of the Year ballot is the culmination of the yearlong Athlete of the Month program, which recognizes accomplishments of men and women in sports from around the globe. Each month, the public is invited to participate by nominating and voting for athletes on the Academy's website. Monthly winners become eligible for the prestigious Athlete of the Year honor, which is selected by online public balloting during the first three weeks of December.

This year's ballot included 12 men and 12 women from nine countries representing a wide variety of athletic accomplishment. Their performances provided some of the top highlights and newsworthy stories in sport in 2015. The web-based ballot garnered votes from around the world during the three-week voting period.

The Academy's 2014 Male and Female Athletes of the Year were Novak Djokovic, professional tennis player from Serbia, and Maria Sharapova, professional tennis player from Russia. ■

UConn Basketball Coach Honored

Women's Basketball Coach Geno Auriemma (left) received the 2015 Amos Alonzo Stagg Coaching Award from Academy Trustee Tom Cafaro during the University of Connecticut exhibition game against Lubbock Christian at the XL Center in Hartford, Conn.

In capturing his 10th national title with the Huskies this year, and surpassing the 900-win mark in the process, Auriemma further cemented his spot among the true greats of his profession. His determination drove the Huskies to their third straight NCAA Division I Women's Championship, beating Notre Dame, 63-53, in the final. If not for an early-season, overtime loss at Stanford, UConn would have had its second straight perfect season. Auriemma's troops finished 38-1, ranking No. 1 in the country in scoring offense, scoring defense, scoring margin, field-goal percentage, opponent field-goal percentage, three-point shooting percentage, assists and blocked shots. ■



Mbvoumin Earns Humanitarian Award

Jean Claude Mbvoumin, the founding President of Football Solidaire (FS), is being honored with the Academy's 2015 Jackie Robinson Humanitarian Award for the major changes and continued efforts that he has made through his organization for young international football (soccer) players.

An epidemic of human trafficking is on the rise and youth football in Africa is not immune. African children are often lured to Europe by corrupt recruiters who fail to abide by immigration and labor laws. Once in Europe, these children are often paid a small percentage of what was promised to them and are abandoned. Since its inception in 2000, the FS has homed, helped and supported more than 1,400 young players. FS has also worked with the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) to change recruiting laws to better protect minors. ■



Courage Award Goes to Blind Triathlete



Michael Somsan (right) received the 2015 Mildred “Babe” Didrikson Zaharias Courage Award from Jack Lengyel, the former Director of Athletics at the U.S. Naval Academy and the Chairman of the Academy's College Football Game of the Year Committee, at Ability360 in Phoenix, Ariz.

A first lieutenant in the Army from 1992 to 1995, Somsan was shot in the head while trying to defend a young woman in a fight.

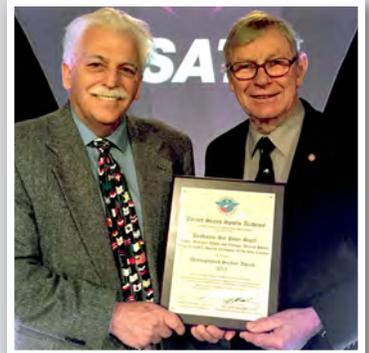
Only 25 at the time, he was left blind as the shooting damaged his optical nerves beyond repair.

Inspired by fellow disabled veterans, Somsan pushed himself to take part in the Tempe, Ariz., Ironman, an event that spanned 2.4 miles swimming, 112 miles biking and a full marathon (26.2 miles) running. Requiring two guides to help him along the way for the biking and swimming portions, Somsan completed the event. The task was monumental, as he spent nine months training for it. Included in that regime were participation in a sprint triathlon, a regular triathlon and a Half-Ironman. In following his own motto, “Never Be Defeated,” Somsan then completed two full marathons and qualified for the Boston Marathon in 2016. ■

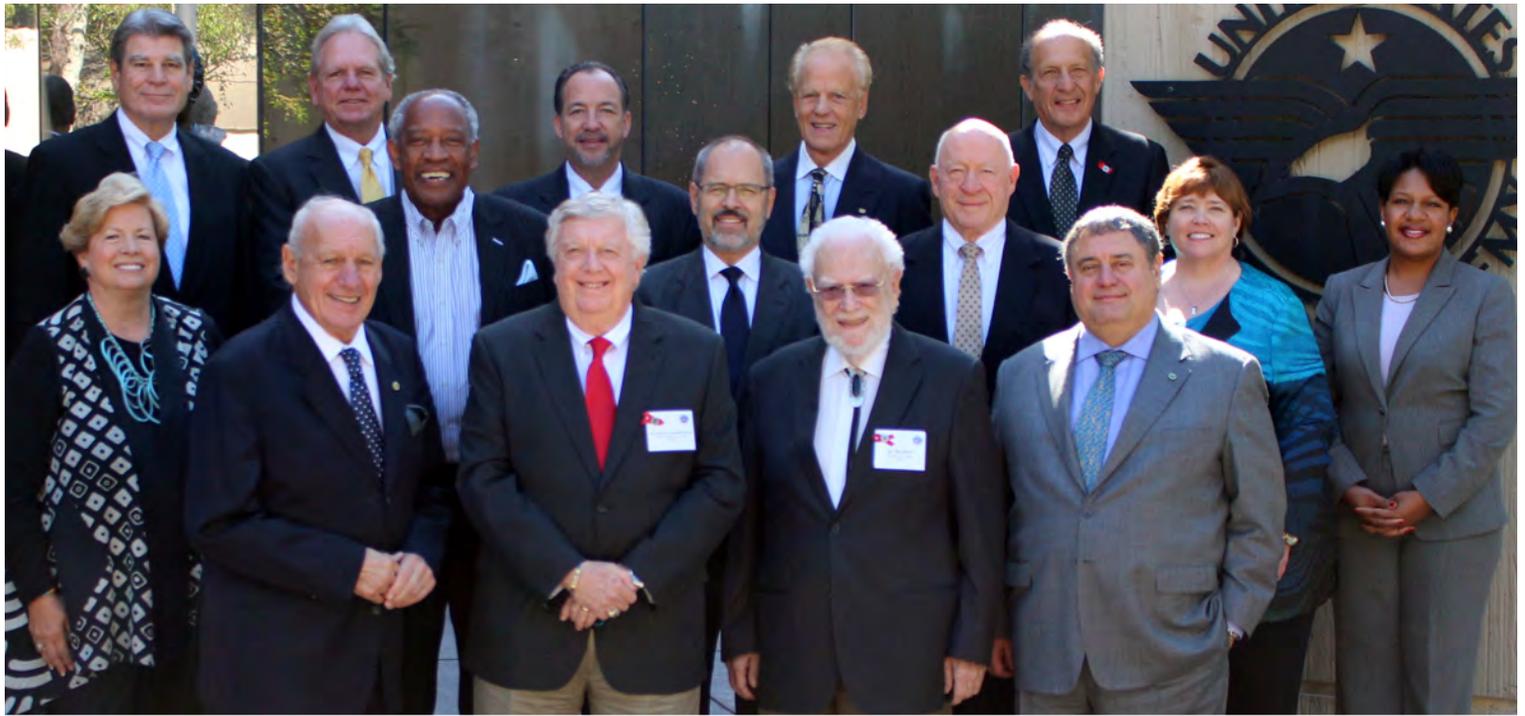
Sir Peter Snell Recognized by Academy

Former Olympic runner Sir Peter Snell (right) received a 2015 Distinguished Service Award in recognition of his lifelong career in sport from Academy National Faculty member Dr. Mike Spino during the 2015 USA Track & Field Annual Meeting Awards Breakfast held in Houston, Texas.

Snell has set five individual world records, two indoor world records and joined with fellow New Zealand athletes to set a new 4 x 1 mile relay record as well. A member of the American College of Sports Medicine, Snell was honored in 1999 as an Inaugural Inductee into the International Scholar-Athlete Hall of Fame. In 2000, he was named New Zealand's Athlete of the 20th Century. In 2002, he was honored as a Distinguished Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit, and a few years later he officially became “Sir Peter Snell.” ■



Academy Holds 31st Annual Awards of Sport Celebration



The Academy's Board of Trustees paused for a photo during the Annual Meeting, held in conjunction with the 31st Annual Awards of Sport program at the Academy on 5 November 2015. Shown on front from left are the first President and current President Emeritus Dr. Thomas P. Rosandich of Daphne, Ala.; Board Chairman Robert C. Campbell III of Mobile, Ala.; Founding Board Chairman and current Trustee Dr. Robert S. Block of Reno, Nev.; and Academy President Dr. T.J. Rosandich of Fairhope, Ala. Shown in middle and back rows, from left, are: Joan Cronan of Knoxville, Tenn.; Thomas Cafaro of Dudley, Mass.; Trustee Emeritus Randy Smith of Mobile, Ala.; Dr. Lee A. McElroy of Troy, N.Y.; Joseph Szlavik of Washington, D.C.; Peter Tichansky of New York, N.Y.; Jack Scharr of St. Louis, Mo.; Dr. Don C. Wukasch of Austin, Texas; Dr. Nick Niccolai of Mobile, Ala.; Dr. Linda K. Moore of Unionville, Conn.; and Dr. Monica Motley of Mobile, Ala. Not pictured are Dr. Milly Cowles of Fairhope, Ala., and Dr. Gary Cunningham of Santa Barbara, Calif.

The 31st annual Awards of Sport Celebration was held on the Academy's campus in Daphne, Ala., on Thursday, 5 November 2015. With the theme a "Tribute to the Artist and the Athlete," the Academy annually honors those who have made significant contributions to sport. The 2015 class of honorees included individuals from around the world who are leaders in their respective areas of the sport profession. Eight of these individuals gathered at the Academy to be recognized during the annual celebration, which included presenting a Distinguished Service Award to Dr. T.J. Rosandich, who now serves as the President of the Academy (*see page 4*). The other honorees included:

International Honorary Doctorate - Professor Franco Ascani



Professor Franco Ascani (left) is currently the International President of the Federation Internationale Cinema Television Sportifs, which has a mission to "promote the values, the Olympism, ethical and cultural function of the Sport Movement through television and cinema." He is also currently a member

of the International Olympic Committee's Culture and Olympic Heritage Commission, the former President of the Union Eupéenne du Sports pour Tous and the former Vice President of the Fédération Internationale du Sport pour Tous. A journalist, Ascani has authored several books about sports management and has published more than 200 scientific reviews.

The award was presented by **Dr. Thomas P. Rosandich**, who was then serving as the President and Chief Executive Officer of the United States Sports Academy. ■

National Honorary Doctorate - David Wallechinsky



David Wallechinsky (left) has been the President of the International Society of Olympic Historians since 2012 and a member of the organization since its inception in 1991. He has spearheaded a worldwide effort to promote and study the Olympic Movement and Olympic Games, all while letting his passion for the top international sporting event pour out into printed word. For more than three decades now, he has kept readers abreast of the most recent Olympic news by updating his reference volumes *The Complete Book of the Summer Olympics* and *The Complete Book of the Winter Olympics*. The dedication he has shown and knowledge he has attained led to him becoming a commentator for NBC and Westwood One radio from 1988 through the 2014 Sochi Olympic Games in Russia.

The award was presented by **Robert C. Campbell III, Esq.**, the Academy's Board of Trustees Chairman, who is a senior partner for the law firm of Campbell, Duke and Campbell in Mobile, Ala. ■

Alumnus of the Year - CDR David Peterson, Ed.D.



CDR David Peterson, Ed.D., (right) currently serves as the Executive Officer of the Physical Education Department at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md. In this role, he acts as the Senior Military Adviser and Reporting Senior Officer for all active duty military personnel within the department. The Naval Academy's Physical Education Department is one of the broadest of its kind in the nation and is responsible for the physical mission development for each Midshipman within the brigade. He also serves as the lead instructor for two of the physical education elective courses offered at the Naval Academy.

The award was presented by Trustee **Dr. Nick Niccolai**, who is a retired Captain in the U.S. Navy Reserves. During Niccolai's 16 years at the University of South Alabama, he served as Director of the Undergraduate Computer Science Division, Director of the Graduate Computer Science Division and Director of Graduate Research for the School of Computer and Information Sciences. ■

Carl Maddox Sports Management Award - Dr. Kevin White

Dr. Kevin White (right) currently serves as the Vice President and Director of Athletics at Duke University, which has ranked among the top schools in graduation success and academic performance rates since he came aboard. White also served on the steering committee for the Chicago bid to host the 2016 Olympic Games and was just recently named to the U.S. Olympic Committee's Board of Directors. While at Duke, he has geared programs to aide Duke's community outreach and its academic mission, highlighted by a ticket proceeds-fueled library fund that supports teaching and research across the institution.



The award was presented by Trustee **Dr. Lee McElroy**, who was recently named the Athletic Director for Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, N.Y. McElroy has more than 30 years of experience in athletic and educational administration. During that time he served in several prominent positions, including as President of the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NACDA) from 2006-2007. ■

Dr. Ernst Jokl Sports Medicine Award - Col. John Feagin, Jr. M.D.



Dr. John Feagin (right) formerly served as the President of the American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine. He has incredible academic-professional legacies at both the U.S. Military Academy and Duke University. Despite having retired, his fingerprints remain on the medical field, especially as it relates to sports and those prestigious institutions of higher education.

The award was presented by Trustee **Thomas Cafaro**, who served Nichols College in several professional capacities. He was Director of Athletics for 11 years, at which time he added varsity sports for women in soccer, tennis and lacrosse, as well as intercollegiate club sports for men's and women's rugby, men's and women's racquetball and downhill skiing. ■

Theodore Roosevelt Meritorious Achievement Award - Gaylon McCollough, M.D.

Dr. Gaylon McCollough (right) founded the McCollough Institute for Appearance and Health in Gulf Shores, Ala., in 1999. McCollough has obtained international recognition as a surgeon, teacher, author and medical association leader. A University of Alabama 1965 honors graduate, he served as an offensive center for the 1964 National Champion Crimson Tide football team under Coach Paul "Bear" Bryant. Before choosing a medical career over a promising football career with the Dallas Cowboys, McCollough played football for the Atlanta Falcons and earned "All-Pro" Honors while attending medical school.



The award was presented by **Dr. Robert Block**, a founding member of the Academy's Board of Trustees. His long and successful career in the computer software and entertainment industries includes pioneering roles in cellular telephone operating companies, as well as commercial and pay television. He has been granted more than 150 international patents and holds an Honorary Doctorate from the Academy. ■

Sport Artist of the Year - Joseph Sheppard



Joseph Sheppard (right) is an award-winning artist, painter and sculptor. He first became interested in depicting sports, especially boxing, after he completed a cover for Sports Illustrated featuring pro boxer Jack Dempsey. He has spent more than six decades documenting life through realistic paintings, drawings and sculptures, building an enviable reputation in the art world. He has received numerous honors, including the Gold Medal of Honor in 1994 from the National Sculpture Society in N.Y. and, more recently, the XVIII Premio Internazionale Pietrasanta e la Versilia nel Mondo in Italy. His work can be found in dozens of prestigious collections worldwide.

The award was presented by Trustee **Jack Scharr**, who is the President of Fine Art Ltd., which is the world's largest publisher of art for commemorative events. In addition to commissioning artwork for Olympic Games since 1987, he has commissioned several hundred works of art while working with artists from across the globe. ■

Academy President Boosts International Relations Through Tour of Nations

The Academy recently bolstered its international programs with the first tour of nations by Dr. Thomas J. Rosandich since he was named the Academy's second President in November 2015. Rosandich, who has been central to the Academy's international programs for more than 30 years, met in January 2016 with the institution's associates and colleagues in the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Singapore, China and Malaysia. Highlights of the Academy's recent educational activities abroad include:

Malaysia

The Academy's work in Malaysia to enhance the quality of physical education teaching and sport coaching there has again paid dividends with the December 2015 awarding of diplomas to 880 teachers and coaches who successfully completed the rigorous training program to improve their professional skills.

The latest graduates of the International Diploma in Physical Education and Sport Coaching (IDPESC) program, the third group since the program began in 2012, brings the total number to 2,200. These graduates in turn improve the lives of tens of thousands of students under their influence.

Under the IDPESC program, the Academy's faculty provide 10 modules of classroom instruction, each



Malaysian Minister of Education H.E. Mahdzir Khalid, left, presents the International Diploma in Physical Education and Sport Coaching (IDPESC) to one of the 880 teachers and coaches who completed the program as Dato Safie, Chairman of USSA-Malaysia, looks on.

a week in duration, at numerous sites throughout the country. This is followed by a mentorship through which the participants are expected to satisfy a series of assignments to implement at their schools the lessons learned in the classroom. For example, the program has led to the successful physical fitness testing of almost 200,000 Malaysian boys and girls across all ages that has provided vital information to national policy-makers on the state of the health of the nation's youth.

It is anticipated that the IDPESC program in Malaysia will continue this spring with a new group of participants.

The Academy also is involved in a major program in Malaysia to enhance the nation's National Service Training Program for youth who have completed secondary school.

The program, "Train the Trainers," or TOT, is designed to assist Malaysia in its efforts to revitalize its National Service Training Program for non-college-bound youth. A team of Academy faculty trained Malaysian instructors on an array of physical fitness, sport and recreation topics who, in turn, will seek to impart these skills on hundreds of thousands of youth by improving their physical fitness, enhancing their participation and success in sport, and teaching them the value of life-long recreation. This, in turn, will prepare them to be more successful and productive members of society.

Under the pilot program conducted from October through December 2015, members of the Academy's National Faculty completed the training of the hundreds of individuals who will serve as trainers in the National Service Training Program. At present, the second phase of the program is under way on site by the USSA-Malaysia staff to reach those trainers who missed the program in 2015. The full National Service Training Program for more than 100,000 youth throughout

the country is expected to begin in March 2016. The program delivery for these youth will be done primarily by the Academy-trained Malaysian teachers although the USSA-Malaysia staff will monitor their performance at the 82 training camps around the country.

United Arab Emirates

The Academy recently began a new project to play a role in the development of football (soccer) administrators in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) through a Football Club Operators License Program in cooperation with the United Arab Emirates Football Association (UAEFA).

The agreement between the Academy, its Emirati colleagues and the UAEFA has led to the development of the Football Association Academy for Sports Management (FAASM). This effort includes football 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 football club system. The FAASM is a new initiative of the UAEFA and the first classes for the Club Operators Licensing Program commenced in February 2016.

Among the programs to be delivered through the FAASM is a Football Club Operators Licensing Program that was developed by the Academy in cooperation with Edraak, an Emirati Training and Consultancy firm based in Abu Dhabi. The curriculum covers four subjects including Sports Administration, Sports Marketing, Sports Media, and Facility and Event Management. Each subject has three levels of instruction through which successful students will receive in succession a "C", "B" and "A" level license.

The Academy has provided sports education and expertise over the past five years in the UAE in cooperation with Edraak. Through this effort, the Academy will be providing the faculty and instruction for the Football Club Operators Licensing Program while Edraak will serve as the facilitator coordinating the onsite implementation of the training program.



Dr. T.J. Rosandich, center, Academy President, exchanges gifts with United Arab Emirates Football Association President Yousuf Al-Serkal to celebrate the launch of the Football Association Academy for Sports Management. At left is Dr. Khalid Al-Hashimi, Managing Director of the Football Academy.



Academy President Dr. T.J. Rosandich discusses past successes and future programs with Bahrain Olympic Committee Secretary General Abdulrahman Askar at a recent meeting in Manama, Bahrain.

Bahrain

While in Bahrain, Rosandich met with Bahrain Olympic Committee Secretary General Abdulrahman Askar, who expressed his interest in strengthening the committee's partnerships and cooperation with the Academy at all levels. During the meeting in Manama, Askar expressed satisfaction with past partnerships with the Academy including projects to promote the experience and capabilities of Bahrain's Sports Training and Development Centre to qualify sports officials in all areas.

Rosandich expressed pride in past programs with Bahrain and described the range of programs and courses possible through the Academy such as those conducted in other countries in the region. The meeting received positive coverage in the Bahrain news media.

People's Republic of China

The Academy and the Shanghai Administration of Sports are continuing to work together on the International Diploma in Sports Coaching (IDSC) program. This past year saw some 50 students who have been working for various clubs and sport organizations in the Shanghai area admitted to the program that concluded in December. This program included eight courses in core coaching skills and a mentorship for the "skills and drills" portion of the program. The courses were taught on site in Shanghai by the Academy's faculty while the practical portion of the program was organized by the Shanghai Administration of Sports who paired the students with established coaches for their field training.

While in Shanghai, Rosandich was able to participate in the January graduation for the 35 students who completed the program. He also discussed future installments of the program with leaders in Shanghai.

Rosandich also visited Beijing while in China and met with Shen Zhen, Senior Vice President for International Cooperation and Exchanges of the Federation of University Sport of China (FUSC) and the China School Sports Federation (CSSF). The FUSC and CSSF, a Department in the Ministry of Education, is responsible for all of the scholastic sports programs in China. The Academy has worked with the FUSC on various programs and exchanges since 2006 and the meeting afforded Shen and Rosandich to discuss plans for upcoming events.



Meeting at the International Sports Academy (ISA) of Singapore recently were Chay Yee, ISA founder and Chairman; Academy President Dr. T.J. Rosandich; Adam Lim, ISA Director of Academic and Program Management; and Mark Chay, ISA Chief Executive Officer.



Academy President Dr. T.J. Rosandich celebrates graduation with students who completed the International Diploma in Sports Coaching (IDSC) program through the Academy and the Shanghai Administration of Sports.

Singapore

The Academy has worked with the International Sports Academy-Singapore (ISA) since 2003 and in 2015 the two organizations renewed their cooperative agreement for another five-year term. While visiting ISA leaders in the island nation, Rosandich was able to look ahead to the

future, with discussions focusing on potential expansion of the Academy's diploma programs. Because the Singaporean educational authorities recently approved the use of distance education for educational programs, among the topics discussed is the role that ISA can play in recruiting students to study in the Academy's degree programs delivered exclusively in an online format.

Thailand

While not a stop on the recent international tour, the Academy's longtime relationship with Thailand to educate sports leaders in that country is continuing this year as the Academy

is conducting its International Certification in Sports Coaching (ICSC) and International Certification in Sports Management (ICSM) programs in Bangkok, programs that have been in place more than a decade.

Both certification programs prepare participants for leadership roles in sport. The ICSC program includes a wide range of coaching and related administrative skills, while the ICSM program includes management topics such as sports event planning, marketing and public relations, and facilities.

Under the program, approximately 50 students annually are drawn from the Sports Authority of Thailand (SAT) and its affiliated sport organizations around the country to attend the certification courses. Following the conclusion of the classroom portion of the program, the SAT annually selects the best students from each program for a special study tour of sport in America. A delegation of approximately 12 students and administrators from the SAT tour various sports organizations and venues for two weeks from coast to coast in the U.S.

Coursework for 2016 began in January and runs through June, followed by the sports study tour this fall.

The Academy and the SAT recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding to extend cooperation in sports education and training through 2020. n



Academy President Dr. T.J. Rosandich visited Beijing and discussed plans for upcoming activities there with Shen Zhen, Senior Vice President for International Cooperation and Exchanges of the Federation of University Sport of China and the China School Sports Federation.

Academy Adjunct Faculty Member Finds Satisfaction in International Teaching



Serving on the Academy's adjunct faculty offers sport education professionals the opportunity for a rich and diverse international experience, a fact well illustrated by the work of Joe Harlan.

Harlan, from Las Vegas, Nev., is an experienced college athletic administrator, coach and instructor. He teaches sport management courses and recently has taught for the Academy in three countries -- Malaysia, Thailand and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Harlan is currently serving as one of the lead-off faculty for a new project in which the Academy is playing a role in the development of football (soccer) administrators in the Emirates in cooperation with the UAE Football Association.

"International teaching with the Academy has allowed me to travel to new countries and learn a great deal about new cultures, all while adding valuable teaching experiences to my resume," Harlan said. "You also get the satisfaction

of delivering valuable educational programs to international students who are hungry to learn. Each program has been a great combination of both personal and professional growth." ■

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NOTABLE ALUMNI



Mike Leach

Alumnus Mike Leach Named Pac-12 Coach of the Year, Wins Sun Bowl

Alumnus and Washington State University (WSU) Head Football Coach Mike Leach has been named the 2015 Pac-12 Conference Co-Coach of the Year, an honor being shared with Stanford's David Shaw.

Leach guided the Cougars to an 8-4 record this season, 6-3 in Pac-12 play, both the best at WSU since 2003. The Cougars, selected fifth in the Pac-12 North Division's preseason media poll, posted road victories over Rutgers, Oregon, Arizona and No. 18 UCLA. The win at Oregon was the first over the Ducks since the 2006 season, while the Cougars hadn't defeated UCLA since 2007. Additionally, the Cougars achieved a top 20 national ranking following the win over Colorado. The Cougars lead the nation in passing offense at 397 yards per game and defeated the University of Miami 20-14 in the 2015 Hyundai Sun Bowl.

Leach has a 104-73 record as a Head Coach and has led his teams to bowl games in 12 of his past 14 seasons. Now in his fourth season at WSU, he previously served as Head Coach at Texas Tech University from 2000-2009, after serving as an Assistant Coach at universities including Oklahoma, Kentucky, Valdosta State and Iowa Wesleyan.

Leach is a 1988 graduate of the Academy with a Master of Sports Science (M.S.S.) in Sports Coaching. He is the current Academy Alumni President and a past winner of the Academy's Alumnus of the Year Award.

Leach, 54, had originally trained to be an attorney, graduating from Brigham Young University and Pepperdine School of Law, when he became intrigued with coaching football at the college level.

"I had graduated from law school, but was really interested in sports and coaching," Leach said. "I didn't have an academic background in sport, although I had played a lot of sports in high school and college.

"The United States Sports Academy was a quick and efficient way for me to get academic exposure to sports. I was able to get my master's and continue to work coaching football, so it was incredibly beneficial to me. I learned a lot.

"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.

"One of the things I liked about the Sports Academy's degree is that it was very practical. We did it all – from taping ankles to learning how to put together an athletic handbook to fundraising," he said. "We learned a wide range of things that still are particularly important to me.

"I remember the faculty members at the Academy were very sharp. I developed a real closeness with people there. The faculty gave me a lot of one-on-one time and the interaction was really good.

"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 United States Sports Academy has been a huge part of my success." n



Alumnus and WSU Head Football Coach Mike Leach, recently named the 2015 Pac-12 Conference Co-Coach of the Year, said, "Getting my degree from the United States Sports Academy has been a huge part of my success."

Where Are They Now?

Daniel Acosta-Laureano (B.S.S., Sports Coaching, 2008)

Acosta-Laureano has been working in professional baseball for over 15 years as a strength and conditioning coach, and as a hitting and catching instructor. Along with his wealth of expertise, Acosta-Laureano owns a college recruiting company that exposes young athletes to potential colleges for placement. Currently, he serves as the Field Manager for the Florida Jets, a professional baseball organization that plays in the South Florida Winter League. n

Theresa Hanson (M.S.S., Sports Management, 2010)

In December 2015, Hanson became the first female Athletic Director at Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, B.C., Canada, where she leads 17 varsity sports programs. Simon Fraser currently competes at the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division II level and is the only Canadian school to be a member institution of the NCAA.



Theresa Hanson

Hanson's degree program with the Academy was particularly relevant to her new position, as her mentorship focused on the University of British Columbia's consideration to become part of the NCAA, which was occurring at the same time Simon Fraser University was considering NCAA membership. Through her mentorship, Hanson was involved in issues and considerations related to NCAA membership -- which her mentor institution eventually opted not to pursue -- but are crucial in her new role. "My Academy degree is excellent and I whole-heartedly benefited from it," she said. n

Art Mota (M.S.S., Sports Coaching/Sports Psychology, 2013)

Mota is the Head Coach of Women's Soccer at Chemeketa Community College in Salem, Ore., and recently earned Coach of the Year honors for the South Division of the Northwest Athletic Conference. n



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Lance Noble (M.S.S., Sports Coaching, 2005)

Noble currently serves as the Executive Director of the Capitol Area Youth Soccer Association (CAYSA) in Manor, Texas. CAYSA governs the greater Austin area and is one of the largest youth soccer associations in the country. n

Scott Novack (M.S.S., Sports Management, 1997)

Novack has joined Tulane University in facilities and event management after several successful years with the United States Olympic Committee and Olympic sports associations, including assisting the USA Bobsled and Skeleton Team that won six medals at the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia.

Novack, who played tennis, baseball and basketball in high school, moved to Daphne, Ala., to attend residential classes at the Academy. Wanting to capitalize on his Russian language skills and international experience, which piqued his interest in the Olympic movement, he felt the Academy would be the right fit. "It worked out well. I did all the coursework in two semesters on campus," Novack said. "I did my mentorship in England at Brunel University in the fall of 1996. Those opportunities were not available at other schools." n



Scott Novack

Dr. Kechia Seabrooks Rowles (Ed.D., Sports Management, 2015)

Rowles serves as Athletic Coordinator/Athletic Trainer for Rockdale County Public Schools in metropolitan Atlanta. She is responsible for the prevention, care and rehabilitation of injuries for all student-athletes in the district. She also works to ensure all safety measures and policies adhere to local, state and national guidelines.

Rowles also recently published an article in *The Sport Journal*, the Academy's online peer-reviewed journal of sport. Her article, "An Investigation into Factors that Contribute to the Perception of Disparities between Academic Achievement and Athletic Participation in High School Student-Athletes," analyzes and compares various factors that contribute to the attitudes and perceptions held by public high school student-athletes toward academic achievement. To see her article in the *The Sport Journal*, go to thesportjournal.org. n



Dr. Kechia Seabrooks Rowles

Paul Thein (M.S.S., Sports Management, 1996)

Thein held a succession of coaching and administrator posts at community colleges prior to accepting his current position as President and CEO of the Greater Naples YMCA.

In his new post, Thein is utilizing his education from the Academy to work on curriculum and programs that benefit the youth in his community. He is advancing programs in youth football in addition to looking at ways to improve adult education in wellness matters. n



Paul Thein

Study by Academy Alumnus Reports on Dangers of Energy Drinks

A new study by an alumnus indicates that the younger a person begins consuming energy drinks, the more likely that person is to binge on the drinks later in life, compounding the health risks associated with the product.

The study, which involved personnel in the U.S. Navy, advises that new information about the impact of adolescent consumption of energy drinks should be used in developing effective prevention and intervention programs beneficial to the military and the general population.

The study was conducted by U.S. Navy Cmdr. Dr. Thomas Sather, Department Head for Education and Training Requirements and Oversight at the U.S. Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery in Falls Church, Va. Sather holds two degrees from the Academy: the Master of Sports Science in Sports Fitness Management and Sports Medicine (1996) and the Doctorate of Education in Sports Management with a concentration in Leadership (2015).

Sather's study surveyed 239 U.S. naval aviator and flight officer candidates to determine various measures of energy drink consumption. The study was published on 4 December 2015 in the journal *Addictive Behaviors Reports*.

Sather's study looked at the age of first consumption and later incidences of binge consumption within the past year, defined as four or more 8-ounce energy drinks during a single occasion. The study found that people in his test group who began using energy drinks between the ages of 13 and 16 years were nearly five times more likely to consume high quantities of energy drinks during a single occasion when compared to those who started consuming energy drinks between the ages of 20 and 23 years. Likewise, persons who began to consume energy drinks between the ages of 13 and 16 years were 2.5 times more likely to consume high quantities of energy drinks during a single occasion than those who started between the ages of 17 and 19 years. There was no difference in binge behavior when comparing the 17-19 year group and the 20-23 year group.

According to the study, energy drink abuse has evolved as a public health concern as numerous surveys have indicated high usage of the drinks among adolescents, with some studies indicating that as many as 62 percent of adolescents use the products at least once per year. The American Association of Poison Control Centers annual report for 2013 reflected 1,685 reported cases of overdose from energy drinks, 368 of which required treatment at a hospital. To date, the U.S. has not regulated energy drink production or sales despite growing concern among public health researchers and practitioners. n



Cmdr. Thomas E. Sather

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Marines, Academy Collect Record 10,000+ in Toys for Tots Donations



Members of the Jesse Andrews, Jr. Marine Corps League Detachment and faculty and staff of the Academy celebrate a record number of toys collected and distributed to needy children under the 2015 Toys for Tots program.

The Jesse Andrews, Jr. Marine Corps League Detachment of Daphne and the Academy collected and distributed more than 10,000 toys for the 2015 Toys for Tots program, the largest number in the 20 years the Academy and the U.S. Marines have been partnering in the annual charitable endeavor.

The Academy and Marine organizations have collected and distributed tens of thousands of toys to children since first partnering for the Toys for Tots program 20 years ago.

This year, the Jesse Andrews, Jr. Marine Corps League Detachment coordinated donations, while the Academy served as the central collection center throughout the annual drive. Donated toys came from individuals and organizations and went to children throughout central and northern Baldwin County. The detachment and Academy then worked with local charitable organizations to ensure that the toys went to families who needed them during the holiday season.

“I am very proud of the success of this year’s campaign,” said Kenya Thomas, Detachment Adjutant and coordinator of this year’s Toys for Tots campaign. “I think it shows the community that we care and that we will do what it takes to make sure that children in our part of the county have a very Merry Christmas.” ■

Academy Art Committee Chair Named Art Educator of the Year

Nancy Raia, Chairperson of the Academy’s Art Committee, has been named 2015 Art Educator of the Year by the Mobile Arts Council.

The award, part of the council’s Greater Mobile Arts Awards program, or “Arty’s,” honors important contributions to the cultural life of the community. The award is voted on by council members based on the recipient’s “total contribution or body of work and its impact on an artistic discipline or effect on the community.”



Raia chairs the Academy’s Art Committee, which evaluates artwork and portfolios for the American Sport Art Museum and Archives (ASAMA) Sport Artist of the Year Award. Given since 1984, this award is presented annually to an artist from around the world who is perceived to capture the spirit of sport, so that future generations can relive the drama and excitement of today’s competitions.

Raia has been with the Eastern Shore Art Center for 15 years, the last seven as Community Outreach Director. A painter who also works in pen and ink, she is widely known for using art as a tool to raise the spirits of people and improve the conditions of humanity.

Founded in 1984, ASAMA, a division of the United States Sports Academy, is dedicated to the preservation of sports art, history and literature. Believed to be the largest collection of sport art in North America, the ASAMA collection is composed of nearly 1,900 works of sport art across a variety of media, including paintings, sculptures, assemblages, prints and photographs. The museum features numerous world-renowned artists. The museum is free and open to the public from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information, go to www.asama.org. ■

Regional Accreditor Hears Report on Academy’s Successful Writing Program

The Academy’s highly successful program to enhance student writing skills was the focus of a recent invited presentation at the annual meeting of the Academy’s regional accrediting agency.

Dr. Stephen Butler, the Academy’s Dean of Academic Affairs, discussed the Academy Center for Collegiate Excellence and Student Success (ACCESS) program with participants at the meeting of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) in Houston, Texas, on 7 December 2015.

The program was created in 2008 as the Academy’s Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), a key element of the reaffirmation of accreditation process. ACCESS has been a major success, drawing praise from students and resulting in greater academic achievement. In fact, students who have participated in the ACCESS writing tutorials have achieved grade-point averages more than 21 percent higher than students who have not. ■



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Academy Offers Free Online Concussions Course

With the recent increased awareness of the need to prevent and properly treat concussions in sports, the Academy is offering a free online course, "Sport Related Concussions."

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that up to 3.8 million concussions occur in sports-related activities in the U.S. annually. As millions of young athletes experience the effects of sport-related concussions each year, the need to effectively prevent, diagnose and manage concussions is a major priority.

The Academy's course provides an in-depth review of the risks, prevention, recognition, treatment and management of sport-related concussions. This course also discusses the importance of awareness and education strategies for coaches, athletes, parents, administrators and health care professionals.

The free online course is available by going to the Academy home page at www.usssa.edu and clicking on "free courses." ■

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BOARD OF VISITORS NEWS

International Sports Hall of Fame Inducts Six Greats

The International Sports Hall of Fame (ISHOF), founded by Academy Board of Visitors Chairman Dr. Robert M. Goldman, is inducting six new members for 2016.

They are:

- Johnny Bench, baseball Hall of Famer;
- Ronnie Coleman, eight-time Mr. Olympia;
- Dolph Lundgren, movie star and European Karate Champion;
- Royce Gracie, first Ultimate Fighting Championship World Champion;
- AnnMaria DeMars, first American Judo World Champion; and
- Kurt Angle, Olympic gold medal wrestler.



The ISHOF has become the world's premiere sports hall of fame and induction is held each March in Columbus, Ohio, in conjunction with Arnold Swarzenegger's Arnold Sports Festival. For more information, go to www.SportsHOF.org. n

New Appointments to Board of Visitors

The Academy has appointed five new members to its Board of Visitors, which advises and evaluates the efforts of the institution in its mission. In recognition of the Academy's global reach and impact, the new members are all international, representing Africa, Asia and Europe. The new members are:

- **Vincent Chin**, Chief Operating Officer, USSA-Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia;
- **Dr. Giovanni Di Cola**, Special Advisor for the International Labour Office, Geneva, Switzerland;
- **Dr. Norbert Mueller**, Professor Emeritus, Mainz University, Hechtsheim, Germany, Academy Honorary Doctorate Award Recipient 2013;
- **Dr. Tomas Sithole**, Secretary General of African Sport, Zimbabwe, Africa, Academy Honorary Doctorate Award Recipient 2005; and
- **Dr. Santiparb Tejavaniya**, Advisor to the President of the Olympic Council of Asia, Bangkok, Thailand, Academy Honorary Doctorate Award Recipient 2003, Academy Distinguished Service Award Recipient 1999. n

IN MEMORIAM

Academy, NACDA Mourn the Loss of Michael J. Cleary

The Academy and the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NACDA) are mourning the loss of Michael J. "Mike" Cleary, the long-time NACDA Executive Director who was instrumental in the founding and success of both organizations.

Cleary passed away 31 December 2015 at the age of 81. Cleary served NACDA for five decades as Executive Director and then Director Emeritus. A Navy veteran, Cleary led NACDA from its inception in 1965 until 2011. Early in his tenure, he was instrumental in the movement among the nation's athletic directors that led to the founding of the Academy, which opened in 1972.

Academy President Emeritus Dr. Thomas P. Rosandich credited Cleary for being "the genesis" for the founding of the Academy, which was created in part to enhance professionalism in athletic administration. The Academy's first Board of Visitors consisted of 33 members, all but one of whom were directors of athletics. Two of those original members went on to chair of the Academy's Board of Trustees.

Cleary served on the Academy's Board of Visitors and was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by the Academy in 2003 for his long career of service and support. He also served on the Academy's Games Committee, which oversees the Academy's College Football Game of the Year program. The Academy honored Cleary in 2011 at the NACDA annual convention on Orlando, Fla., for his efforts on behalf of NACDA and the Academy, as he was stepping down as Executive Director.

"I recently reflected upon the Academy's long working relationship with NACDA, and Mr. Cleary has built it into one of the most regal sport organizations in this country, if not the most important," Rosandich said in honoring Cleary. "I thank him for the years of leadership that he has given the association. I know what it takes to build an organization and nobody could have done it better than Mr. Cleary." ■





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