

Academy Names “Robert Block Library” in Honor of Founding Chairman of Board of Trustees

The Academy has named its library the “Robert Block Library” in honor of the Founding Chairman of the Academy’s Board of Trustees.

The naming in honor of Dr. Robert Block was held in conjunction with the Academy’s recent 32nd annual Awards of Sport program. Block – who played a crucial role in the founding and growth of the Academy – holds an Honorary Doctorate degree from the Academy.

“Bob is all things to all people; he is the perfect balance of a man,” Academy Founding President Dr. Thomas P. Rosandich said. “Bob has been a very successful businessman and a very good friend.”

Block thanked Rosandich and the Academy for being an important and influential part of his life.

“I wanted to be here to thank you,” Block said at the naming announcement. “You gave me so much over the years and I wanted to be here to thank you.”

In addition to being the Founding Chairman of the Academy’s Board of Trustees, Block served as a board member for 44 years, beginning with the Academy’s inception in 1972. Block provided space for the Academy’s first



From left: Academy President and Chief Executive Officer Dr. T.J. Rosandich; Founding Chairman of the Academy Board of Trustees Dr. Robert Block; and Academy Founding President Dr. Thomas P. Rosandich at the recent dedication of the “Robert Block Library.”

location in Milwaukee, Wisc. Together with Rosandich and other founding members of the board, Block also helped recruit and select the Academy’s first National Faculty. Block was also instrumental in the creation of the Academy’s logo, which has become a symbol recognized around the world.

“Bob had a beautiful building in Milwaukee and gave me access to it to put together the first facility for the Academy,” Rosandich said. “In those days he was flying airplanes and he went around looking at things he thought might work for the Academy; he helped us make it all come together.”

When the Academy moved to the University of South Alabama campus in Mobile, Ala., in 1976 and to its current

home in Daphne, Ala., in 1986, Block continued as a dedicated member of the Board of Trustees.

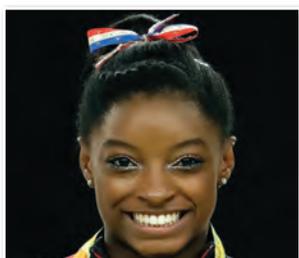
Rosandich called the library a “special place” with a unique collection of books, art and historic Olympic memorabilia and manuscripts.

“We have in there a very large Olympic collection of medals, art and manuscripts that people have donated to us, so it is a special place,” Rosandich said. “And it couldn’t be named for a better guy.”

Dr. T.J. Rosandich, current Academy President and Chief Executive Officer, said naming the library for Block is particularly appropriate.

“The library is considered to be the heart of a university, so it is fitting that our library now bears the name of Dr. Robert Block, a person who was central to the founding of the institution,” the Academy’s President said.

The President of 3D Business Tools in Reno, Nev., Block has had a long and successful career in the computer software, communication and entertainment industries that includes pioneering roles in commercial and pay television, as well as cellular telephone operating companies. Block has contributed significantly to the *(continued on next page)*



Simone Biles
 2016 Female Athlete of the Year
 Page 7

IN THIS ISSUE

Academy Founding President Honored.....	2-3
Awards of Sport.....	4-7
American Sport Art Museum and Archives (ASAMA).....	8
Alumni Achievements.....	9-11
International Outreach.....	12-13
People, Places and Programs.....	14-15



Michael Phelps
 2016 Male Athlete of the Year
 Page 7

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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 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.

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Dr. Thomas P. Rosandich Receives Numerous Honors for Long-Time Leadership in Sport Education

Academy Founding President Dr. Thomas P. Rosandich has recently received numerous prestigious awards and honors for his service as a long-time leader in sport and sport education around the globe.

Rosandich retired from the Academy in February 2017 with the Board of Trustees giving him the permanent title of "Founding President." He had been serving as "President Emeritus" since stepping down from the presidency in November 2015, at which time his son, Dr. T.J. Rosandich, was named President and Chief Executive Officer. The Founding President served the Academy nearly 45 years, 43 as President, dating back to the Academy's founding in 1972.

Rosandich has been recently acknowledged by a number of groups for remarkable contributions to sport and sport education.

- Rosandich was presented an Honorary Doctorate by the Academy's Board of Trustees during the Academy's Awards of Sport program on campus on 10 November 2016.
- The Board of Trustees named the "Thomas P. Rosandich Gallery" on the Academy's campus in recognition of his creation of the American Sport Art Museum and Archives (ASAMA).
- Rosandich was inducted into the International Sports Hall of Fame (ISHOF) on 4 March 2017 at the annual Arnold Schwarzenegger Sports Festival in Columbus, Ohio.
- It was announced in March 2017 that Rosandich would be inducted into the Mobile, Ala., Sports Hall of Fame (MSHOF) in ceremonies set for 6 April 2017.
- A Founder's Room has been created at the Academy, adjacent to the Rosandich Gallery, with photos and memorabilia commemorating Rosandich's long-time service.

The Honorary Doctorate

Rosandich was presented the Honorary Doctorate by Academy Trustee Dr. Don C. Wukasch during the Academy's Awards of Sport program on campus on 10 November 2016. Rosandich was lauded for his vision and service as Founding President of the Academy and for his leadership during 43 years as president. Each year as part of its Awards of Sport program, the Academy presents Honorary Doctorates to national and international recipients who have distinguished themselves through outstanding contributions to sport. Honorees are presented with a hood, citation, plaque and transcript signifying their honorary degree.



Dr. Rosandich, left, was presented the 2016 National Honorary Doctorate by Academy Trustee Dr. Don C. Wukasch.

The "Thomas P. Rosandich Gallery"

One day after awarding the Honorary Doctorate, the Academy's Board of Trustees 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 thousands of people. The trustees acknowledged Rosandich's appreciation of the relationship between art and sport that led him to create ASAMA, which is located within

Academy Names "Robert Block Library" (continued)

(continued from cover) creation and development of entertainment and communication technologies used worldwide. He has been granted more than 150 U.S. and foreign patents, including patents related to solar energy panels, in-building communications, and pay-per-view television, as well as terrestrial and satellite distribution systems.

He is a published author and founder of numerous companies in the communications, energy, software development and entertainment fields.

Block is also a founder and chairman of ShipCom, a Federal Communications Commission licensed United States provider of high seas voice and data communications for emergency responders. When Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast in 2005, the Coast Guard's communication facilities were severely damaged. ShipCom assisted the Coast Guard's communications with rescue aircraft for 12 days. For ShipCom's efforts, the Coast Guard presented Block with a commendation award for saving the lives of more than 33,000 people. ■

the Academy building and is one of the world's leading collections of sport art.

International Sports Hall of Fame

The Academy's Founding President was inducted into the International Sports Hall of Fame (ISHOF) on 4 March 2017. The ISHOF is 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." The ISHOF is "a global organization that believes recognition of these remarkable sports people should endure and be recognized long after their careers have ended. Just as important is what Hall of Fame candidates do later in life, in giving back to others and society, with charity work, and mentoring young people."

Induction ceremonies are held every March at the Arnold Schwarzenegger Sports Festival in Columbus, Ohio, the world's largest annual multi-sports weekend festival, hosting 175,000 attendees and more than 18,000 competing athletes. Schwarzenegger, the famed actor, body builder and former California governor, co-hosts the inductions.

Rosandich was joined in the 2017 ISHOF induction class by American actor and body-builder Lou Ferrigno; Heisman Trophy winning NFL running back Herschel Walker; American speed skating Olympic champion Apolo Ohno; and American former world champion powerlifter Bill Kazmaier.

To view a tribute video honoring Rosandich related to his induction in the ISHOF, go to www.youtube.com/watch?v=VkqnHOL4awg&feature=youtu.be.

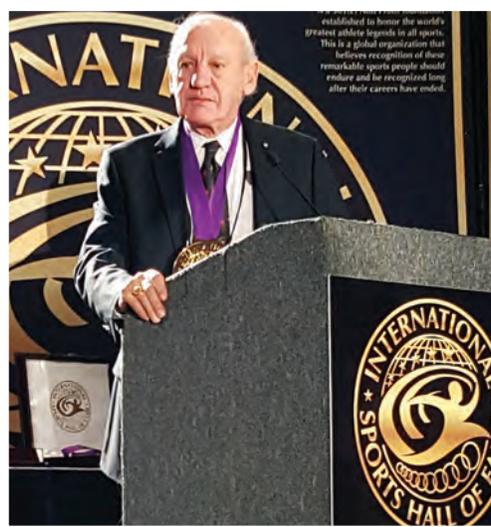
Mobile Sports Hall of Fame

It was announced in March 2017 that the Founding President would be inducted into the Mobile, Ala., Sports Hall of Fame (MSHOF). Rosandich will be honored during the 2017 Induction Banquet at 7 p.m. on Thursday, 6 April 2017, at Mobile's Battle House Hotel.

Founded in 1988, the MSHOF honors the city of Mobile's many heroes and influential figures in the world of sports. It has honored more than 100 individuals with enshrinement. 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, legendary coaches and



The Academy Board of Trustees honored Dr. Rosandich, left, by naming the "Thomas P. Rosandich Gallery" for him, recognizing his creation of ASAMA, which has provided cultural enrichment to thousands of people. The honoree is shown with his son, Dr. T.J. Rosandich, current President and Chief Executive Officer of the Academy.



Dr. Rosandich was recently inducted into the International Sports Hall of Fame (ISHOF).

athletic leaders.

In addition to Rosandich, this year's inductees are former University of Alabama and NBA basketball player Jason Caffey; civic leader and athletic philanthropist John L. Finley; former Auburn University and NFL football player Lawyer Tillman; former University of South Alabama and Major League Baseball player Dave Stapleton; legendary Bayside Academy volleyball coach Ann Schilling, winner of 21 state volleyball championships; and former University of Southern Mississippi and NFL football player Jerrel Wilson.

For more information about the MSHOF, go to www.mobilesportshallof-fame.com.

The Founder's Room

Visitors to the Academy campus in Daphne, Ala., can experience the history of the Academy through the "Founder's Room," which honors the Founding President and features important historic photos and memorabilia related to Rosandich's long-time service to the Academy. The Founder's Room is located adjacent to the Thomas P. Rosandich Gallery.

A Lifetime of Service to Sport

A native of Sheboygan Falls, Wis., Rosandich founded the Academy in 1972 in response to a poor performance by the United States Olympic team in the 1972 Munich Games. Athletes were lacking quality coaching and training, which Rosandich believed could best be remedied through education.

Over the past 45 years, the Academy has conferred thousands of sport-specific degrees to its students and has enriched the lives of countless more through its education and outreach programs that have been delivered in some 65 countries around the world. The Academy now offers bachelor's, master's and doctoral degree programs, as well as a wide array of non-degree sport education programs.

The campus also houses ASAMA, which was founded in 1984 by Rosandich. ASAMA embodies the enduring connection between sports and art. Through tireless effort, Rosandich built the collection into a world-recognized museum housing more than 1,700 pieces in all mediums. It is thought to be the largest museum of the sport genre in the world. ■



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32nd Annual Awards of Sport Celebration



The Academy honored individuals from around the globe who have made significant contributions to sport and art at its 32nd annual Awards of Sport program – “A Tribute to the Artist and the Athlete” – held on campus on 10 November 2016. To view a full length video of the ceremony, visit <https://youtu.be/YD9f3gVygJc>.

Among those honored was LaTanya Sheffield, left, who was named the 2016 Alumna of the Year. The award was presented by Academy Trustee Dr. Linda Moore. Sheffield is a former Olympic hurdler and American record holder who is now a successful college associate head track coach at Long Beach State University in California. She recently served as assistant coach for USA Track & Field at the 2016 Rio Olympics, working with the women’s sprinters and hurdlers. She earned her Bachelor of Sports Science degree in sports management from the Academy in 2011.

Sheffield said her Academy education has been important to her success as a coach. “It made sense for me to pursue my degree at the Academy, so I could coach at a whole other level,” she said. “The program helped me to press for excellence and was important in obtaining my job at Long Beach State. The Academy also helped me achieve a more complete understanding of what modern student-athletes go through and prepared me academically to be a better coach.” Inspirational remarks made by Sheffield during the celebration can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/OId0gSwHZws>.



Héctor F. Cardona, right, of Puerto Rico, received the 2016 International Honorary Doctorate for his role in the success of sport in Central America, South America and the Caribbean. Cardona is serving his fourth term as president of the Central American and Caribbean Sport Organization (CACSO). The doctorate was presented by Academy Trustee Dr. Gary Cunningham. Cardona thanked the Academy for the award, noting that it and the CACSO share a similar vision. “Bringing people together in peace despite race, religion or political affiliation benefits mankind,” Cardona said. “Now more than ever, sport is the universal language.”



Dr. Dirk Craen, right, was presented a Distinguished Service Award by Academy Trustee Thomas R. Cafaro. Craen is president of the European University-Business School, which is consistently ranked among the top business schools in Europe. Craen has served since 1998 as president of the private, triple-accredited business school. It has campuses in Spain, Switzerland and Germany and has partnered with nearly 70 other institutions worldwide.



Gretchen Kelsey Brown, right, was presented a Distinguished Service Award by Academy Trustee Dr. Nick Niccolai. Brown is co-founder of *Athletic Business* magazine and chief executive officer of Athletic Business Media, Inc. *Athletic Business* is read in print by more than 40,000 subscribers in sport related fields and has expanded into digital media and live events. The company also hosts the Athletic Business Conference. ■

Chuck Wielgus Earns Honorary Doctorate



Charles “Chuck” Wielgus, executive director of USA Swimming, won the 2016 National Honorary Doctorate from the Academy. Wielgus, center, was presented the award at USA Swimming headquarters in Colorado Springs by William Hybl, left, the President Emeritus of the United States Olympic Committee, and Walter Glover, right, the Executive Vice President of the U.S. Olympic Endowment.

Wielgus is widely credited for making swimming the most successful of Team USA’s Summer Olympic sports, having served as the executive director of USA Swimming since 1997 and as chief executive officer of the USA Swimming Foundation since its inception in 2004. He led USA Swimming through an extended period of growth in what has become an increasingly competitive marketplace. Membership in USA Swimming surpassed 400,000, while organizational revenues and net worth more than quadrupled under his direction.

Under Wielgus, the U.S. Olympic Swim Team won an average of 31 medals in each of the last five Olympic Games to lead all of Team USA’s medal counts. In the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, U.S. swimmers collected 33 total medals, including 16 gold first place finishes. ■

Roosevelt Award Goes to Donna de Varona

Donna de Varona – an Olympic swimmer, Emmy-winning television sportscaster and tireless advocate for women in sports – won the Academy’s 2016 Theodore Roosevelt Meritorious Achievement Award.

De Varona, center, was presented the award at the U.S. Olympic Committee’s New York City offices by Academy Trustees Joe Szlavik, right, and Peter Tichansky. Szlavik is president of Scribe Strategies & Advisors, Inc., and Tichansky is chief executive officer of the Business Council for International Understanding.

As the first president of the Women’s

Sports Foundation, de Varona has been an influential figure in sport. She served five terms on the President’s Council on Physical Fitness and Sports and was a pivotal force behind the passage of Title IX legislation, which barred sexual discrimination in any activity receiving federal financial assistance.

De Varona serves on the executive board of Special Olympics International and is a member of the International Olympic Committee’s Women and Sports Commission. She serves on the U.S. Department of State’s Empowerment of Girls and Women through Sports Council. ■



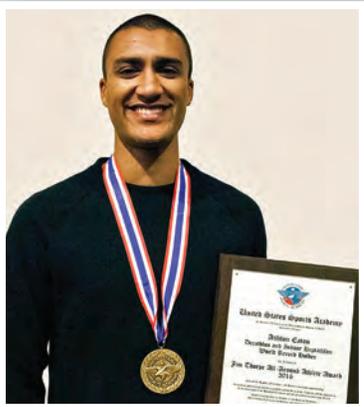
Ashton Eaton Wins Jim Thorpe All-Around Award

American decathlete Ashton Eaton, who won his second consecutive Olympic decathlon gold medal in the 2016 Rio Games, was named the Academy’s 2016 Jim Thorpe All-Around Award winner.

This is the third time Eaton has been honored in the Academy’s Awards of Sport program, having won the Jim Thorpe All-Around Award in both 2012 and 2010.

After first winning gold in the decathlon in the 2012 Summer Olympic Games in London, Eaton defended his title as world’s greatest athlete by winning the event in the 2016 Rio Games. Eaton’s first place finish in Rio also tied the Olympic record, scoring 8,893 points to match the mark set by Roman Sebrle of the Czech Republic in 2004.

The Portland, Ore., native is a two-time Olympic champion and holds the world record in both the decathlon and heptathlon events. Eaton was a five-time National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA) champion, winning the 2010 Bowerman award given to the year’s best student-athlete in American collegiate track and field. ■



Sir Craig Reddie Honored with 2016 Eagle Award

Sir Craig Reddie, right, president of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) and a vice president of the International Olympic Committee, won the Academy’s 2016 Eagle Award.

The award was presented to Reddie at London’s East India Club by John S. Hunter, a distinguished educator and leader in sport in the U.K. and a member of the Academy’s Board of Visitors.

Reddie has been heavily involved with WADA since its founding in 1999, having served as chairman of the Finance and Administration Committee since the organization’s formation and as a member of WADA’s Executive Committee and Foundation Board. He was elected president of WADA in 2013 and recently was re-elected for a second three-year term.

Reddie has been a tireless and courageous advocate for the anti-doping movement. Amid great public pressure and scrutiny, he played a key role in preserving the athletic integrity of the 2016 Rio Olympic Games, where he was instrumental in the investigation and disqualification of numerous athletes due to doping. ■



Mel Young Receives Jackie Robinson Humanitarian Award

Mel Young, left, a tireless advocate for homeless people around the globe who founded the Homeless World Cup international soccer tournament, earned the 2016 Jackie Robinson Humanitarian Award from the Academy.

Young was presented the award in London from Dr. Costas Karageorghis, an accomplished sport psychology faculty member at Brunel University in London.

Young co-founded the Homeless World Cup organization in 2001 to advocate for a global solution to homelessness. The organization puts on the annual Homeless World Cup, a soccer tournament where teams of homeless people from each participating country play. More than 70 countries are represented in the tournament.

The purpose of the program is to teach homeless people vital skills and empower them to improve their situation. The organization also uses the program as a platform for the public to re-evaluate the way it views the issue of homelessness. The program has involved more than 1 million homeless individuals since its inception. ■



Verne Lundquist Wins Ronald Reagan Media Award



Verne Lundquist, a sports media veteran who has broadcast 20 different sports in his lengthy career with networks such as TNT, CBS Sports and ABC Sports, won the Academy's 2016 Ronald Reagan Media Award.

The award was presented to Lundquist, left, by Dr. T.J. Rosandich,

Academy President and CEO, at the University of Georgia vs. University of Florida football game in Jacksonville, Fla. The presentation was aired nationally as a part of the game broadcast.

In August, Lundquist began his 54th year in broadcasting. He teamed with Gary Danielson and Allie LaForce to call the Southeastern Conference "Game of the Week" on CBS during college football season. He retired following the conclusion of the college football regular season.

Throughout his lengthy career, Lundquist has received a host of national awards and recognition for his service. He was inducted into the National Sportscasters and Sportswriters Association Hall of Fame in 2007. In May 2016, Lundquist won the Sports Emmy Award for Lifetime Achievement. ■

Syrian Refugee Ibrahim Al-Hussein Earns Zaharias Courage Award

Paralympic swimmer and Syrian refugee Ibrahim Al-Hussein won the 2016 Mildred "Babe" Didrikson Zaharias Courage Award from the Academy for showing courage and dedication to his sport in the face of incredible odds.

Al-Hussein, left, was presented the award at the offices of the Hellenic Paralympic Committee in Athens, Greece, by Sakis Kostaris, managing director, and Paralympian Athanasios Tsvivilis, center, committee member at large.

Al-Hussein was one of two athletes to be the first refugees to be part of the Independent Paralympic Athletes (IPA) team. At the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games, Al-Hussein represented those displaced during the civil war in Syria. He set two personal bests in swimming at Rio 2016 in the 50 meter and 100 meter S9 free-style events and was the IPA team's flag bearer at the opening ceremony.

In 2013, Al-Hussein was sheltering in his home during a rocket strike when he heard a friend calling for help. In his effort to come to his friend's aid, Al-Hussein was struck by a nearby bomb blast. The blast severely injured his right leg, which had to be amputated. ■



Six-Time Olympic Medalist Kim Rhode Recognized

American shooter Kim Rhode – the most successful female shooter in Olympic history – won the Academy's 2016 Distinguished Service Award for her excellence in the sport over the last six consecutive Olympic Summer Games.

The award was presented in her home state of California by Dr. Gary Cunningham, Academy trustee and president of the United States International University Sports Federation.

A bronze medal winner at the Rio de Janeiro 2016 Olympic Games, Rhode is the first athlete, male or female, to medal at six consecutive Olympic Summer Games and the first to win a medal on five different continents. Rhode is the only woman to win two Olympic gold medals in the double trap event. Her first gold medal came in the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta, where at age 17 she was the youngest female gold medalist in the history of Olympic shooting. She followed her impressive showing in Atlanta with bronze in Sydney, gold in Athens, silver in Beijing and gold in London.

Rhode won gold medals in the Pan American Games in 2015, 2011, 2010, 2003 and 1999 and was recognized as the USA Shooting Female Athlete of the Year three times from 2007-09. ■



Grand View Wrestling Coach Nick Mitchell Honored

Grand View University head wrestling coach Nick Mitchell, left, who led his team to five consecutive national championships, was presented the 2016 Distinguished Service Award by Academy Trustee Jack Schar at a wrestling dual on the Grand View campus.

Mitchell started the first-ever wrestling team at Grand View in Des Moines, Iowa, with the 2008-09 season and in eight years the Vikings have become a perennial wrestling power. In 2016, Grand View won the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) National Championship for the fifth straight year, the first NAIA team ever to do so.

These accomplishments earned Mitchell the NAIA National Coach of the Year honors in 2012, 2014, 2015 and 2016, in addition to being named Regional Coach of the Year six times. He has coached 60 All-Americans and 13 NAIA individual national champions. His team has won its regional championship for six years in a row and has finished in the NAIA top 10 for eight straight years. ■



Michael Phelps and Simone Biles Named Athletes of the Year

Olympic swimmer Michael Phelps and Olympic gymnast Simone Biles won the Academy's Male and Female Athlete of the Year Awards for 2016.



Photo by Fernando Frazao/Agencia Brasil

Simone Biles

Phelps, an American swimmer, won a total of six medals – five gold and one silver – in the Rio 2016 Olympic Games. Phelps won gold in the 200 meter butterfly, 200 meter individual medley, 4x100 meter freestyle relay, 4x100 medley relay, and 4x200 freestyle relay, as well as silver in the 100 meter butterfly. Phelps now holds the Olympic medal record with 28 total medals, 23 of which are gold, and is the most decorated Olympian of all time.

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 in April and won the all-around title at the U.S. Olympic trials in gymnastics with an overall two-day total of 123.25 in July.

The 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. A worldwide public vote on the annual ballot is used to guide the committee in making the final selection.

Phelps is a three-time Academy Athlete of the Year, having previously won the honor in 2003 and 2008. ■

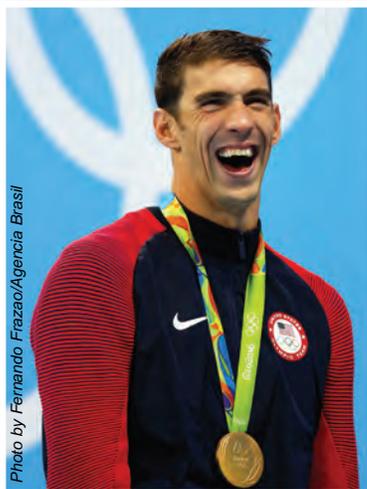


Photo by Fernando Frazao/Agencia Brasil

Michael Phelps

Clemson's Victory Against Alabama Named College Football Game of the Year

The Clemson University Tigers won the Academy's 2016 College Football Game of the Year Award after their thrilling last-second victory over the unbeaten and number one Alabama Crimson Tide 35-31 in the College Football Playoff National Championship on 9 January 2017.

The Tigers were led by a stellar performance from heralded junior quarterback Deshaun Watson, whose championship-winning touchdown pass in the final seconds is widely considered to be one of the most exciting finishes in college football history.

The Tigers (14-1) knocked off defending champion Alabama (14-1) and also became the first team to defeat head coach Nick Saban's Alabama team in a national championship game. Clemson head coach Dabo Swinney – a former walk-on wide receiver and assistant coach at Alabama – defeated his alma mater to capture his first national championship. Swinney earlier was named the 2016 winner of the Academy's Amos Alonzo Stagg Coaching Award, which Saban won in 2010.

The game at Tampa's Raymond James Stadium was a rematch of last season's College Football Playoff National Championship in which Alabama defeated Clemson 45-40 to earn the Academy's 2015 College Football Game of the Year Award.

Trailing 31-28 with just two minutes left in the game, the Tigers embarked on a 68-yard scoring drive capped by a 2-yard touchdown pass from Watson to receiver Hunter Renfrow with one second left on the clock. The score and extra point gave the Tigers a 35-31 lead and secured the school's first national championship since 1981, its second overall. ■



Dabo Swinney, left, earlier this football season was presented the 2016 Amos Alonzo Stagg Coaching Award by Academy Director of Doctoral Studies Dr. Fred Cromartie.

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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Rick Rush Presents Original NASCAR Painting

World renowned painter Rick Rush said his 2008 painting, “Finishing Strong,” was created to capture a significant event in the history of auto racing: the changing of the guard from the days of Dale Earnhardt Sr. to today’s Jimmie Johnson-dominated NASCAR landscape.

The Academy’s 2011 Sport Artist of the Year – known worldwide for his colorful paintings that depict a variety of sports – presented the original work to ASAMA. An anonymous benefactor purchased the painting to donate to the museum, where the work is now on permanent display.

With “Finishing Strong,” the Tuscaloosa, Ala.,-based artist depicted a new beginning in NASCAR racing, when driver Jimmie Johnson took the racing world by storm by winning his third consecutive Sprint Cup Series championship. The piece features Johnson’s #48 Lowe’s Chevrolet Monte Carlo SS, followed by Hendrick Motorsport co-owner Jeff Gordon in his #24 DuPont Chevrolet with Dale Earnhardt Jr. – who would soon join Hendrick – in the rear.



Rick Rush, right, presents “Finishing Strong” to Academy President and Chief Executive Officer Dr. T.J. Rosandich, left, and Academy Founding President Dr. Thomas P. Rosandich.

“The Academy and ASAMA are an artistic marvel for me,” Rush said. “They impact people and countries and cultures through the universal language of sport and art,” Rush said. “What a great work, coming together to develop cultural stability and integration around the world. It is a great platform,” Rush said.

People interested in purchasing signed copies of the art can do so by visiting the Academy’s Bookstore at <https://bookstore.ussa.edu>. ■

Bruce Larsen Inducted into Arts Hall of Fame

Academy 2009 Sport Artist of the Year Bruce Larsen has been honored as a member of the inaugural class of the Alabama Center for the Arts Hall of Fame.



Larsen, of Fairhope, Ala., is a world renowned sculptor and special effects artist whose works can be found in the homes of the rich and famous around the world, in museums, on movie sets for Hollywood films and on the campus of the Academy.

Larsen is best known for his sculptures reflecting the “Found Object” art movement and depicting famous athletes and animals created from recycled objects, steel, machine parts, industrial materials and more. His works have been collected by the likes of former President Bill Clinton, singer Robert Plant and actor Mark Ruffalo, as well as royalty and heads of state around the world.

ASAMA is home to several large Larsen sculptures representing some of the world’s most famous athletes including gymnast Nastia Liukin, swimmer Mark Spitz and basketball player Michael Jordan. ■



“Borzov the Sprinter” is one of nine Bruce Larsen sculptures featured on the grounds of the Academy.

Sport Artists of the Year Donate Pieces to ASAMA

The Academy added two more pieces of memorable sports art to ASAMA after receiving a pair of donations from its 2016 Sport Artists of the Year.

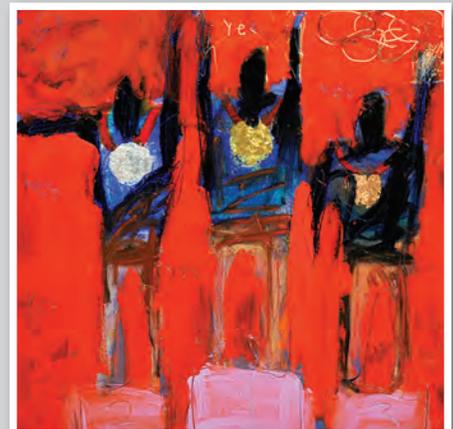
At its annual Awards of Sport event in November 2016, the Academy unveiled a painting by 2016 Sport Artist of the Year, Painter, Greg Burns – “Podium” – depicting an Olympic medal ceremony, as well as a sculpture by 2016 Sport Artist of the Year, Sculptor, Steven Whyte representing former Texas A&M football player and 1957 Heisman Trophy winner John David Crow.

Burns, who resides in Singapore, is a world champion Paralympic swimmer who has won five gold and silver medals and broken four world records in three Paralympic Games. He is also a world-class contemporary artist, whose abstract impressionist paintings and exhibitions have received international acclaim.

Whyte, who resides in Carmel, Calif., has received acclaim for his highly detailed and stirring works on the dynamic spectacle of athleticism. One of his most famous works is a 39-foot-long monument to the tradition of Texas A&M University’s dedicated student fans, referred to as the “12th Man.” It graces the entrance to Kyle Field stadium. ■



“John David Crow Monument Maquette” by Steven Whyte.



“Podium” by Gregory Burns.

Where Are They Now?

Torre Becton (M.S.S., Sports Studies, 2014)

Torre Becton was recently hired as the head strength and conditioning coach for the University of California Berkeley football team. Becton spent the previous six years on the strength and conditioning staffs of other west coast college football teams, with stops at the University of Southern California (2016) and the University of Washington (2011-15).

He also spent time as the director of speed, strength and development at South Carolina State in 2010 and has made career stops on the strength and conditioning staffs of the National Football League's Houston Texans, as well as Iowa State University, Baylor University and Oklahoma State University.

"Earning my master's degree is one of my highlights," said Becton. "The really cool thing was that the degree and program followed me all around the country. Before enrolling into the master's program at the Academy, I looked into several other programs that were not 100 percent online. Because the program was 100 percent online, I could do the program at my own pace. Those were the things that really attracted me to the Academy." ■



Torre Becton

Curt Dixon (Pursuing M.S.S. in Sports Administration and Sports Coaching)

Curt Dixon, Southeast Missouri's pitching coach and recruiting coordinator, is on schedule to complete his master's degree this winter at the end of the baseball team's early signing period for recruits. He said his education through the Academy's online, sports focused approach has allowed him to grow as a full time college baseball coach while he furthers his education.

"In my situation, I would not have been able to take the path I've been on without the United States Sports Academy," Dixon said. "I was able to start my coaching career at age 23, play three years professionally, and build my resume by coaching in the summer. The Academy's distance learning option allows students like me to chase their profession while getting a degree wherever they are. The staff at the Academy is always informative and makes the experience very user friendly, no matter where you are." ■

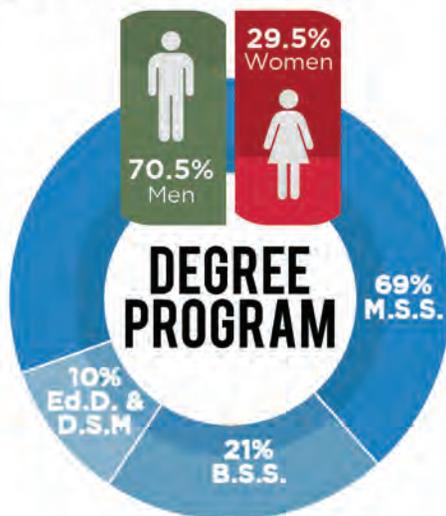


Curt Dixon

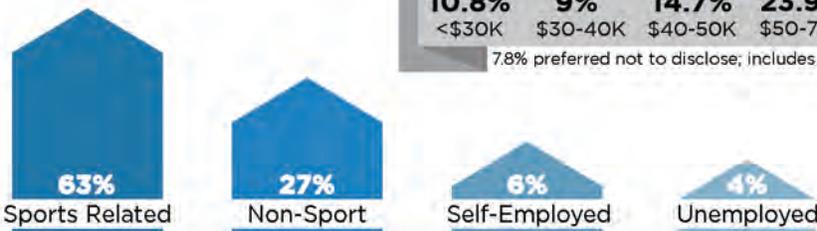
Alumni Give Academy High Marks for Educational Quality, Career Enhancement

The Alumni Survey was completed by Academy graduates during the 2016 Fall Term. This infographic represents their answers.

- Bachelor of Sports Science (B.S.S.)
- Master of Sports Science (M.S.S.)
- Doctor of Education in Sports Management (Ed.D.)
- Doctor of Sports Management (D.S.M., replaced by Ed.D.)



ALUMNI Current Employment Status



Salary Ranges



55% Of graduates received a promotion or salary increase after earning their degree at the Academy.



WHAT ALUMNI ARE SAYING...

Of alumni describe their Academy education as "good or excellent." **95%**

95% Of alumni would recommend others to the Academy to pursue their academic needs.

Of alumni agree their educational program prepared them for their current position. **85%**

91% Of alumni applied learning theories to practical work situations since graduating.

82% Of alumni secured employment within 4 months of graduating (includes those at all degree levels who were seeking employment).

25% Of alumni were offered permanent positions by their mentorship/internship organization.

NOTABLE ALUMNI

Judy Fox Uses Academy Degree to Improve Lives Around the World Through Sport

Judy Fox is using her master’s degree from the Academy to improve the lives of people in underprivileged and underserved communities around the globe, a lifetime goal inspired by a class project from her studies at the Academy.

Fox, a 1992 Academy graduate with a Master of Sports Science degree in sports coaching, is the founder and president of Ignite International, a non-profit Christian organization which uses the universal language of sport to enrich, encourage and empower the lives of people around the world. She earned her bachelor’s degree in physical education from Houghton College.

Ignite International describes itself as “a 501c3 organization which leverages the universal language of sport to build authentic relationships which transcend all barriers. With a keen awareness of the unique influence afforded us as athletes, the organization embraces the mandate to use this platform to empower others to discover their innate purpose and the hope divinely available to them.”



Judy Fox

“In a nutshell, we use the common ground of sport to bridge cultures, initiate and deepen relationships and impact lives,” Fox said.

“We also have established partnerships in a couple of key locations where we assist national sport federations, as well as nationally influential organizations, to grow their programs and empower them as they impact the lives of their next generation,” she said.

“It is one thing for us to come in from the outside and leave a mark after a temporary experience. It’s a whole different level of rewarding to simply come alongside them and assist them to empower their young people. That is truly what will ignite a culture and give hope to the next generation.”

Fox, a Carrollton, Texas, resident, said Ignite International has worked in Nicaragua, Israel, Cuba, Germany, Jamaica, Liberia, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Russia and South Africa over the last 14 years. Recently, the organization has spent significant time in Nicaragua and the Holy Land, an area roughly corresponding to the modern state of Israel and encompassing the Palestinian territories, western Jordan and parts of Lebanon and Syria.

Fox – a former basketball and volleyball player and collegiate volleyball coach – said the organization uses the game of volleyball to teach young girls how to be confident and positive about themselves.

Looking back on her time at the Academy, Fox recalled a term paper she wrote for her sport psychology class that inspired her to pursue a life of service to others. A sport marketing class also helped her with the practical and business sides of her career.

“I am grateful to the Academy for being part of my growth and I’m honored to note the United States Sports Academy on my resume any time I’m asked to provide it,” she said. “The Academy prepared me with practical, tangible, hands-on, real-time experience, while also providing the classroom knowledge to help me grow in my professional expertise.”

She said the Academy’s distance learning option helped her to pursue her dreams without sacrificing time spent in the field.

“The biggest appeal of the Academy was that I didn’t have to take one or two years outside of the coaching arena,” she said. “I was able to do my job and also gain the valuable knowledge provided by my graduate experience because of the opportunity to do so at a distance.”

Fox was the co-founder and co-director of the Conqueror’s Volleyball Club in Dallas, Texas, from 1992-2002 and founded the Ignite Volleyball Club in 2002. In 2005 and 2006, she received the Recognition of Service Award from the Nicaraguan Volleyball Federation, having taken the first collegiate volleyball teams from the United States to Nicaragua in 2004 and 2005. In 2016, the Nicaraguan national volleyball team won the Central American Championship. Fox said seeing the team win the championship was one of her most cherished accomplishments. ■

Dr. Barbara Long (M.S.S., Sports Medicine/Sports Health and Fitness, 1989)

Dr. Barbara H. Long has been elected as a commissioner for the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education, which assures quality in the athletic training profession through the evaluation and accreditation of academic programs in athletic training.



Dr. Barbara Long

Long is head of the Division of Professional Studies, professor and chair of Health and Human Sciences and director of the athletic training program at Bridgewater College in Bridgewater, Va. She has a long history of leadership in athletic training, including co-authoring a book that assists athletic training students in preparation for the Board of Certification examination. ■

Chuck Person (B.S.S., Sports Coaching, 2016)

Basketball great Chuck Person’s career includes a long list of superlatives as a player and coach in the college and professional ranks, and he has recently added another important credential: college graduate. Person, associate head basketball coach at Auburn University, recently completed his Bachelor of Sport Science in sport coaching at the Academy.



Chuck Person

“The Academy has provided for me the ability to pursue a college basketball head coaching job,” Person said. “The Academy’s online program was important because it would have been impossible for me to be the associate head basketball coach at Auburn and attend traditional college classes at the same time,” he said. ■

Dr. Neal Ring (Ed.D., Sports Management/Leadership, 2016; M.S.S., Sports Coaching, 2005)

Dr. Neal Ring was hired in 2012 to reestablish a sports program at Bob Jones University after the school’s 79-year hiatus from intercollegiate athletics.

Ring – the athletic director and men’s basketball coach at Bob Jones University in Greenville, S.C. – credits his education from the Academy with playing an important role in his professional growth and career in athletics.



Dr. Neal Ring

“I believe that components of each class I took and my professors who taught them can be seen somewhere within our program. I like the focus of the Academy on sports and the real world experience that each professor has. Learning the sports industry from those with experience was an excellent decision for me,” Ring said. ■

O'Shea Hired to Coach Italian National Rugby Team



Conor O'Shea

Academy alumnus Conor O'Shea – a rugby director of operations who led England's Harlequins club to the Aviva Premiership Title in 2012 – was recently named head coach of the Italian national rugby team.

O'Shea said taking over the Italian national team is a challenge he looks forward to tackling. "It is a big challenge with Italy, but it is a really exciting one because they are passionate and willing to change for the better; the people are incredible," O'Shea said. "If

we can harness the natural physicality and aggression that the people have here and get ourselves fitter and mentally stronger, then we can achieve a lot. It won't happen overnight but it will happen."

O'Shea earned a bachelor of commerce degree from University College Dublin and a diploma in legal studies at the Dublin Institute of Technology. He earned a Master of Sports Science degree in sports management from the

Academy in 1996. "I had earned a degree and did post grad in commerce, banking and law, but I always loved my sport," O'Shea said. "My M.S.S. in sports management allowed me to marry my previous degrees to the passion I had for sport."

O'Shea said he was fortunate to find the Academy's master's program, which allowed him to continue working in sport while pursuing his degree. "Distance learning was the only way I could have completed the course," O'Shea said. "While at an institution that has so many sports people, it was easy to continue to train and be ready for my next season. I was very fortunate to find the fit."

As a player, O'Shea competed for Ireland in the Rugby World Cup in South Africa in 1995. He played professionally before retiring in 2000 after a career-ending injury. Since that time, O'Shea has remained involved in rugby as a coach and administrator.

"I have coached and managed London Irish, who I also played for, and worked for the English Rugby Football Union as their head of National Academy for five years," O'Shea said. "I spent two years as the national director of the English Institute of Sport and then six years as director of Rugby at Harlequins from 2010-16." ■

Kootz Earns Doctorate



Dr. Jamie Kootz, center, accepts her diploma from Academy President and CEO Dr. T.J. Rosandich, left, and Dean of Academic Affairs Dr. Stephen Butler.

Dr. Jamie Kootz says her dream of becoming a teacher of health and fitness at the college level is being fulfilled thanks to her education at the Academy. In fact Kootz, who earned her Master of Sports Science degree in sports health and fitness in 2010 and her Doctor of Education degree in sports management in 2016, is currently teaching at two universities in Kansas: Kansas Wesleyan University in Salina and MidAmerica Nazarene University in Olathe. Kootz, who resides in Salina, teaches sports management, health and fitness courses. Her Academy doctorate has a sports leadership specialization with an emphasis on sports health and fitness.

"Without the professors I had at the Academy, I would not be the instructor I am able to be today," Kootz said. "They found a way to push me, not to the point of breaking, but just enough to find the potential that they knew was in me.

"The Academy prepared me to be a leader," Kootz said. "I would not be the leader I am today without the skills that I learned at the Academy. I have been given more confidence than I had before. It is one thing to have knowledge, but it is another to be taught how to use that knowledge." ■

IN MEMORIAM

Mourning the Loss of Thad Akins

The Academy mourns the loss of doctoral student Thad Akins, who was pursuing his Doctor of Education degree in sports management at the Academy. Akins passed away in a tragic automobile accident on 19 January 2017 at age 43.

Akins was a teacher and head girls' basketball coach at Spanish Fort High School in Spanish Fort, Ala. He also served as an assistant coach on the school's baseball and freshman football teams.

A You Caring online donation account has been set up in Akins' memory. Proceeds from the account will support Akins' two special needs children, who will face many challenges ahead. Akins' son, Wilson Cole, lives with autism and his daughter, Avery Catherine, lives with Rett Syndrome. If you would like to donate to the family, you may do so at www.youcaring.com/coleandaveryakins-740928. ■



Thad Akins

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Academy Boosts Global Sport Education Efforts Through Presidential Tour of Nations

The Academy recently bolstered its commitment to global sport education through a successful tour of nations by President and CEO Dr. T.J. Rosandich dedicated to expanding the Academy’s positive impact around the world. Rosandich, who has been central to the Academy’s international programs for more than 30 years, made a month-long journey ending in early February that included meetings with key leaders in sport, education and government in China, Malaysia, Switzerland, Thailand and the United Arab Emirates. The following is an update on some key projects with the nations visited.

Thailand

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 for 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.



Jinda Dechpimor, director of human development for the SAT, left, and Academy President Dr. T.J. Rosandich sign the agreement to go forward with the 2017 International Certification Program.

Approximately 50 students annually are drawn from the Sports Authority of Thailand (SAT) and its affiliated sport organizations around the country to attend each of the certification programs, with a total of 100 students involved each year. Following the conclusion of the classroom portion of the program, which is provided by Academy instructors, the

SAT selects the best students from each program for a special study tour of sport in America. A delegation of approximately 15 students and administrators from the SAT takes part in an educational tour of various sports organizations and venues for two weeks from coast to coast in the United States, including a visit to the Academy.

Coursework for 2017 began in January and runs through June, followed by the sports study tour in September. The Academy and the SAT have a Memorandum of Understanding to extend cooperation in sports education and training through 2020.



Dr. Khalid M. Al Hashimi, left, managing director of the UAEFA, and Academy President Dr. T.J. Rosandich, center, address leading sport club and association leaders in Dubai on the importance of sports education in preparing employees for positions in sports organizations.



Thai students, SAT officials, and Academy faculty recently gathered to celebrate the start of the 2017 International Certification Program.

United Arab Emirates

The Academy continues to play a key role in the enhancement of football (soccer) in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) under a cooperative effort to train football administrators through a Football Club Operators License Program with the United Arab Emirates Football Association (UAEFA).

The collaboration has led to the development of the Football Association Academy for Sports Management (FAASM), known as the Football Association Academy (FAA). 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 FAA began offering classes in February 2016.

The Academy is providing the faculty and instruction for the program. The curriculum includes subjects such as sports administration, sports 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.

The ultimate objective of the program is to enhance football in the UAE by improving the quality of the sport’s management.



Academy President Dr. T.J. Rosandich, center, meets for a planning session on the IDPESC program in Malaysia with William "Bill" Price, left, chief information officer for USSA-Malaysia, and Dr. Jeffrey McClung, program coordinator for USSA-Malaysia.

Malaysia

The Academy's work in Malaysia to enhance the quality of physical education teaching and sport coaching there continues to pay dividends. Since 2012, more than 2,200 teachers and coaches have been awarded diplomas for successfully completing the rigorous training program to improve their professional skills. Graduates of the International Diploma in Physical Education and Sport Coaching (IDPESC) program 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 one 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 more than 150,000 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.

People's Republic of China

In the People's Republic of China, the Academy president met with officials of the Capital University of Physical Education and Sports (CUPES), the Federation of University Sports of China (FUSC) and additional sports



Academy President Dr. T.J. Rosandich, left, meets with the Shanghai Sports Bureau to discuss the International Diploma in Sports Coaching (IDSC) program. Current plans are for the IDSC to be taught in Shanghai in early 2018.

leaders in Beijing and Shanghai. In Shanghai, discussions focused on the future extension of the International Diploma in Sports Coaching (IDSC) program. Conducted by the Academy and the Shanghai Administration of Sports (SAS), the program provides classroom instruction, experiential learning, and educational travel to the United States for former elite athletes in the Shanghai area to prepare them for careers in coaching and athletic related fields.

Switzerland

The Academy president met with several key international sport and education leaders in Switzerland to discuss sport education initiatives. Organizations included the International Olympic Committee (IOC); the Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI); the European University Business School; and the International Labor Organization (ILO), whose interest in sport lies in its potential to elevate humanity through helping the United Nations achieve its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Academy is currently in discussions with these organizations regarding future cooperative educational efforts.

The Academy has been involved in sports related education and outreach programming with more than 65 countries around the world since its founding in 1972. ■

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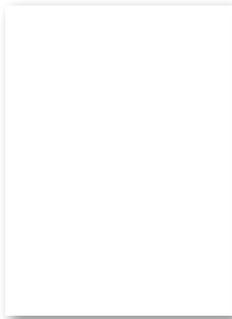


Academy President Dr. T.J. Rosandich meets with Dr. Giovanni DiCola, Special Advisor-Multilateral Cooperation Department of the ILO, in the ILO Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. Dr. DiCola is a member of the Academy's Board of Visitors and is currently working with the institution to plan a certificate program on sustainability in sports.

Academy Welcomes New Trustee Marcus Bailey

The Academy recently welcomed a new member to its Board of Trustees, Marcus E. Bailey. Bailey has more than 30 years of service as a tax valuation analyst for the State of Alabama Department of Revenue Property Tax Division. He has experience appraising thousands of commercial properties, while attempting to help create property tax assessments based on the legal mandate of fair market value with emphasis on contribution to tax system equity. Through his considerable experience, he has taught and developed coursework for the training of appraisal and assessment professionals; assisted local governments on a wide range of appraisal and assessment issues; served as a resource for local governments and courts on tax and assessment issues; and many other contributions.

A resident of Stockton, Ala., Bailey holds a bachelor's degree in managerial economics from the University of Alabama and a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of South Alabama. He also holds certifications in appraisal from the Alabama Real Estate Appraisers Board and the Alabama Department of Revenue. His appraisal education includes over 1,100 hours of instruction, predominantly through Auburn University's Government and Economic Development Institute. ■



Academy Honored For Academic Excellence, Military Friendliness

The Academy received high marks on national rankings for academic excellence and for its commitment to helping active duty U.S. armed forces members and veterans pursue higher education.

Best Degree Programs (BDP) recently ranked the Academy as the nation's number 16 online bachelor's degree program in sport management. According to BDP, the best sport management programs prepare bachelor's students for positions within the fitness industry, intercollegiate athletics, professional sports and recreational organizations. The top 30 schools can be found online at www.bestdegreeprogams.org.

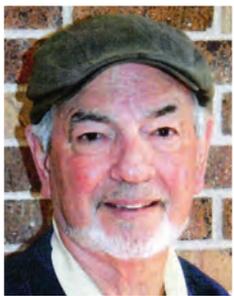
The Academy also ranked as the No. 2 Military Friendly Online School in America, as well as a Gold-Level/Top 10 Military Friendly School, for its commitment and programs to benefit armed forces veterans, active duty military

members and their families. The Academy also ranked ninth in the nation among online universities as a "Military Friendly Spouse School." Victory Media, originator of the family of Military Friendly employment, entrepreneurship and education resources for veterans and their families, published its special awards for 2017 Military Friendly Schools and Employers at militaryfriendly.com.

The Academy also earned new badges from CollegeFactual.com, a website that ranks universities and institutions based on enrollment data, tuition costs and other factors. The Academy ranked in the top 1 percent of "most focused" schools for: parks, recreation, leisure and fitness studies; health and physical education/fitness; and teacher education and development specific subjects. The Academy also earned a badge for ranking in the top 5 percent of schools for most focused programs in Education. ■



Godfrey Inducted into Hall of Fame



Vic Godfrey, a 2014 recipient of the Academy's Distinguished Service Award, was inducted into the South Dakota Cross Country and Track and Field Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

Godfrey, a Watertown, S.D., resident, worked with Academy Founding President Dr. Thomas P. Rosandich at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside. Godfrey served as director of the Olympia Sports Village, a training camp for American athletes founded by Rosandich. He also served with Rosandich in the Peace Corps in the 1960s as a regional coach in the Republic of Indonesia.

Godfrey worked with the Academy in the Kingdom of Bahrain, where in 1977 he became the country's Chief National Athletics Coach. His athletes competed in Olympic, Asian, Arab and Arab Gulf championships. Godfrey has been a member of the Academy's National Faculty. ■

Potter Teaches Course in Emirates

An experienced coach, athletic administrator and teacher, Dr. Jeff Potter recently taught a two-week course on sports facilities and events management for the Academy at the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Football Association Academy in Dubai under a cooperative program to enhance the training of football (soccer) administrators in the UAE.

The Academy is providing the faculty and instruction for the program. The curriculum includes subjects such as sports administration, sports marketing, sports media, and facility and event management. The ultimate objective of the program is to enhance football in the UAE by improving the quality of the sport's management.

"I hope the students took as much from the course as I did," said Potter, who lives in Shawnee, Okla. "The hospitality in the UAE was wonderful. The whole experience was personally and professionally rewarding." ■



Rockwell Elementary School



A group of students from Rockwell Elementary School in Spanish Fort, Ala., visited to study the works of Bruce Larsen, the Academy's 2009 Sport Artist of the Year. The students toured the Academy's outdoor display of Larsen's sculptures and drew their favorites to imitate the artist's style. Larsen uses recycled materials – steel, machine parts and more – to produce works of art. ■

Daphne Strike Players



The Academy hosted 57 female high school soccer players from the Daphne Strike Soccer Club for a discussion featuring University of South Alabama assistant women's soccer coach Jo Chubb on how to reach the next level in their sport. Chubb gave the players advice on how to speak to college soccer coaches to increase the likelihood of securing a collegiate scholarship. ■

Ohio Christian University Students



Sports management students from Ohio Christian University (OCU) in Circleville, Ohio, visited the Academy. The students and faculty were given a tour of the institution by Academy doctoral teaching assistant Benjamin Billman. Billman is a former assistant athletic director and assistant basketball coach at OCU. ■

Reagan Media Award Winners Retire



The storied careers of three renowned broadcasters who have been honored with the Academy's Ronald Reagan Media Award – Dick Enberg, Verne Lundquist and Vin Scully – all came to a close in 2016 through retirement.

Lundquist, the 2016 winner of the award, retired at the end of the Southeastern Conference football season. Enberg, who was honored with the award in 1989 and 2013, retired this year. In September, Scully retired from broadcasting after 67 years with the Los Angeles Dodgers. He won the award in 1986. The award is named for the 40th President of the U.S. and is presented to an individual for outstanding contributions to sport through broadcasting, print, photography or acting.

Scully is known for his calm voice, descriptive style and for his signature Dodger broadcast introduction: "It's time for Dodger baseball! Hi, everybody, and a very pleasant good afternoon to you, wherever you may be."

Enberg began broadcasting in 1957 and for more than half a century provided play-by-play in various sports for such networks as CBS, ESPN and NBC, where he worked for 25 years. He became well known for his signature catchphrase during outstanding plays: "Oh, my!"

In August, Lundquist began his 54th year in broadcasting. A sports media veteran, Lundquist broadcasted 20 different sports in his lengthy career with networks such as TNT, CBS Sports and ABC Sports. ■

Don Porter Writes Book on Softball

Academy National Faculty and Board of Visitors member Don Porter has spent most of his adult life diligently promoting softball around the world and was an instrumental part of the movement to provide the sport's players the opportunity to play on the world's biggest stage as part of the Olympic program.



Porter now is sharing stories from his 30 year quest to internationalize the sport in a new book, "Inclusion/Exclusion: Softball's Olympic Odyssey." The book is scheduled to be released soon, detailing his time in key leadership positions of the International Softball Federation, having served as secretary general from 1965 until 1987 and president from 1987 to 2013. ■

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