

Academy Awards 5,000th Degree

The United States Sports Academy recently topped the 5,000 mark in number of degrees awarded in its history.

Since the Academy's founding in 1972, its alumni have gone on to success as coaches, managers, educators, athletic directors and administrators, entrepreneurs, healthcare providers, researchers and a myriad of other professionals at all level of sports, including professional, Olympic, collegiate, interscholastic, and recreational.

The Academy also has made a particularly strong contribution to education, where its alumni serve as teachers, professors, staff, principals, superintendents and other senior administrators in K-12 schools, as well as post-secondary institutions including colleges and universities.

The Academy's graduates hail from across the U.S. and around the world, earning degrees at the bachelor's, master's and doctoral levels.

The Academy is proud to continue to produce leaders and professionals throughout the world of sport, as illustrated by those featured in this and every issue of *The Academy*.

Dr. Lindsey Schroeder, who recently became the Academy's 5000th graduate, is using her doctoral degree to pursue her dream career of teaching and serving in a clinical position at the college level.

Schroeder is an assistant professor and the clinical education coordinator for the University of North Carolina Wilmington (UNCW) Athletic Training Program within its School of Health and Applied Human Sciences. She recently completed her Academy Doctor of Education degree in sports management with a dual emphasis in sports medicine and sports theory, stating with pride that she's the first



The first two Academy degree program 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 Academy Founding President Dr. Thomas P. Rosandich (left) and University of South Alabama President Dr. Frederick Whiddon.



5,000th graduate
 Dr. Lindsey Schroeder

woman in her family with a doctoral degree.

Like many Academy alumni who have gone before her, Schroeder said the institution's flexible scheduling options allowed her to work in the sports field while earning her sport-specific degree, which in turn made her more valuable in the workplace.

"I was looking for a program that allowed me to continue to practice as an athletic trainer full time, and the Academy did that," Schroeder said.

"My education from the Academy made me a much more desirable employee and prepared me for a high-level position.

"I loved taking classes that focused on sports. Too often, you take classes where it is difficult to make the

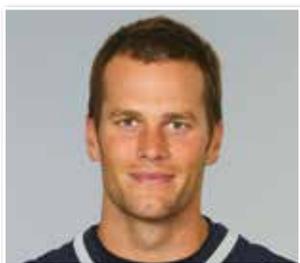
connection for real-world clinical application. At the Academy, you are constantly making that connection, which keeps the material you are learning fascinating and pertinent."

At UNCW, Schroeder teaches clinical courses in addition to an athletic training organization and administration course. She is also responsible for all aspects of clinical education from courses to student clinical site placement.

Schroeder holds a master's degree in kinesiology and exercise science from Oakland University in Rochester, Mich., where she also served as a graduate assistant athletic trainer for the school's volleyball and softball teams.

She earned a bachelor's degree in athletic training from Appalachian State University in Boone, N.C.

She has more than 13 years of experience working as an athletic trainer. After working as a graduate assistant at Oakland, she served full time as an athletic trainer for the school's women's volleyball, women's basketball and softball teams. *(continued on page 3)*



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 2017 Male Athlete of the Year
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MISSION STATEMENT

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

ACCREDITATION

The 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 Academy.

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



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**Academy Working on Solutions
for Ethical Lapses and Corruption in Sport**

Since its founding in 1972, the United States Sports Academy has provided education as a tool to enhance and uphold sport as a powerful force for what is good and healthy in the world.

An important part of our mission at the Academy has been to prepare sports professionals and leaders to address the many threats and challenges facing sport. Indeed, the very founding of the Academy was stimulated in part by the problem of poor preparation and performance of American athletes in the 1972 Munich Olympics and the realization that the poor preparation of coaches was hindering and even injuring athletes at all levels of athletic competition as set out in the landmark Blythe-Mueller Report.

Since those early days, the Academy has leveraged our academic programs in America and around the world in a daily effort to address major challenges facing sport by producing the highly trained professionals needed to lead the preservation and advancement of sport. In fact, as our cover story reports, the Academy recently celebrated the awarding of our 5,000th degree. Beyond that notable achievement, the Academy has awarded tens of thousands of post-secondary, non-degree credentials through our certification and diploma programs in dozens of countries around the world.

We are proud of what the Academy has accomplished in support of sport, but we now face what I believe to be the greatest threat to sport that I have witnessed in more than 40 years of service to the Academy. This challenge represents an existential threat to the profession of sport itself.

The threat? It is the recent wave of ethical failure and corruption that has washed across the world of sport like a tsunami.

Sport has been rocked by highly visible ethical lapses, governance issues and outright corruption that has stretched from the local and college level to the pinnacles of international competition. Whether it is alleged financial corruption in international soccer, bribery related to



Dr. T.J. Rosandich
President and CEO

the awarding of the 2016 Rio Olympic Games, the use of illegal performance enhancing drugs in a state-sanctioned doping program by Russia in the Olympic Games, or, closer to home, the vast recruiting bribery and fraud case in college basketball, sport recently has seen some of its greatest scandals. The shocking revelations surrounding the attending physician in the United States gymnastics federation is a textbook case of a failure of governance oversight while hurting the athletes he professed to help.

Given that sport's foundation and long-term viability are based on principles of fair play, respect, sportsmanship, equal opportunity based on ability, honesty and integrity, this recent corruption has potentially devastating consequences for sport if it is not addressed.

Should sport continue on a path where public trust is eroded, confidence is lost, interest wanes and engagement falters, sport risks being diminished to the point that it is no longer a societal priority or even relevant. And should sport be diminished, along with it would go its many positive attributes, including its ability to foster goodwill around the world.

What is the Academy doing to address this threat?

- First, our faculty are redoubling their efforts to advance sport ethics and combat corruption in sport by further enhancing the education of tomorrow's sports professionals and leaders.
- Second, we are expanding public awareness on the acute need to address ethical issues in sport.

Within all of our degree and non-degree programs, the Academy's course offerings already address topics such as sports ethics, NCAA compliance, sports agents and sports leadership, to name a few. We have an Ethics in Sports course in our bachelor's and doctoral programs, as well as in our post-secondary, non-degree international sports diploma programs. The Academy recently created a Combatting Corruption specialization within the doctoral program which includes two courses: Combatting Corruption in Sports and Effective Governance to Combat Corruption. These courses are also being made available to our advanced master's degree students. Our commitment is for all of our students to graduate even better prepared to address the ethical issues that have arisen in sport.

The Academy is intensifying our focus on raising public visibility and through our popular "news you can use" blog, *The Sport Digest*, as well as *The Sport Journal*, our peer-reviewed online academic journal. Both are provided as a free public service and combined are accessed more than 840,000 times per year. Both digital publications are placing a special focus on sport ethics and corruption awareness by bolstering the number of articles on the subjects written by our faculty members and knowledgeable contributors around the world. Visit the publications at www.thesportdigest.com and www.sportjournal.org. The Academy is also exploring these critical issues in our other print and digital media.

Ultimately, the Academy is committed to using education and awareness to support an international dialogue to address the ethical

issues that threaten the very foundation of sport.

And there is reason for optimism. International concern over sport corruption seems to be lending traction toward reform. For instance, the International Partnership Against Corruption in Sport (IPACS) – which includes the International Olympic Committee (IOC), international sports organizations and governmental/intergovernmental sports organizations – has set up three special task forces to address ethics, corruption and governance issues in sport. The task forces are focusing on reducing the risk of corruption in procurement relating to sporting events and infrastructure; ensuring integrity in the selection of major sporting events, with a focus on managing conflicts of interest; and optimizing the processes of compliance with good governance principles to mitigate the risk of corruption. All of this represents a very good start.

In summary, the solution to the recent ethical crisis in sport will not be simple and it will require our best minds and our best efforts. We must be successful if we are to preserve the role sport has played as a force for good around the world.

For nearly half a century, the United States Sports Academy has been at the forefront in addressing the threats that have arisen in and around the world of sport, and we remain committed to being a tireless advocate for sport and the good that it represents. The recent ethical crisis in sport reminds us all that our educational mission at the Academy is never done, but that it has only just begun. ■

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Academy's 5,000th Graduate Uses Degree for College Faculty and Clinical Career (continued)

(continued from cover) She later moved to Arizona, where she worked as an athletic trainer at a large high school. Later, she worked as an athletic trainer at Illinois State University.

A native of Chapel Hill, N.C., Schroeder eventually moved closer to home to raise her family. She earned a position as an athletic trainer for UNCW's women's basketball and tennis teams, which led her to seek her Academy doctoral degree and her faculty position.

"After having my daughter, I needed to improve my quality of life and we moved to North Carolina to be closer to family," she said. "I was blessed with an athletic training position with women's basketball and women's tennis at UCNW and this opened the door for my current position."

A former athlete who played volleyball, basketball, and softball, Schroeder said she pursued a career in education for several



Dr. Lindsey Schroeder



reasons.

"The main reason I chose education was that as a clinical athletic trainer you notice the retention issue, especially among females, within the profession," she said.

"Way too many fantastic athletic trainers were leaving the profession to go to other careers. I wanted to situate myself to make a difference in the profession by educating students about leadership, work-life balance, and overcoming adversity.

"My greatest professional accomplishment is being the first female in my family to earn a doctoral degree, all while being a mother, wife, and clinical athletic director." ■

Dr. Vincent K. Ramsey to Edit Special Edition of Journal of Functional Morphology and Kinesiology

Academy Chair of Sports Exercise Science Dr. Vincent K. Ramsey has been appointed to edit a special edition of the Journal of Functional Morphology and Kinesiology focusing on biomechanics.

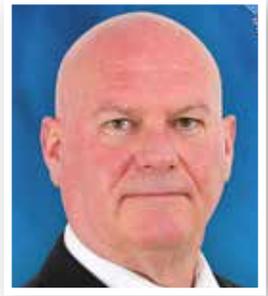
Ramsey’s areas of expertise for the journal are biomechanics, clinical rehabilitation, restorative medicine, orthopedics, traumatic brain injury, tactical athletics and concussion education. He was recently appointed to the editorial review board for the journal, which is an international peer-reviewed open access journal that studies the musculoskeletal system and its associated disorders.

Ramsey will serve as guest editor of the special edition “Application of Biomechanics in Functional Rehabilitation.”

According to the Multidisciplinary Digital Publishing Institute (MDPI) – an academic open access publisher in Switzerland – the special edition is explained

this way: “There are numerous acute and chronic conditions that can be assessed using biomechanical analyses. Conditions such as Parkinson’s disease, joint replacements, visual impairment, cerebral palsy, peripheral neuropathy and postural instability are but a few physiological impairments that can be evaluated via motion capture, force production and levels of muscle activation. The goal of this type of research is to bridge the chasm between theoretical findings and applied rehabilitation techniques.”

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



Dr. Vincent Ramsey

Spradley Named Reviewer for Journal of Concussion; Reviews eSports Chapter in Upcoming Book

Academy Director of Sports Management Dr. Brandon Spradley, who has been heavily involved in addressing the issue of concussion in sports, has been named as a reviewer for an international academic journal focused on the study of concussions.

Spradley will review articles for the Journal of Concussion, a peer reviewed, open access journal devoted to a multi-disciplinary, broad-based approach to head injuries and their care. The journal encourages concussion-related research in neurosurgery; neurology; psychiatry; ear, nose and throat; physiotherapy; rehabilitation; sport; transport and epidemiology. It is published by Sage Publishing, which has offices in Los Angeles, London, New Delhi, Singapore and Washington, D.C.

Spradley earned his Doctor of Education degree in sports management from the Academy, where his dissertation focused on concussion awareness and education.

Spradley also recently reviewed a chapter evaluating the possibility of eSports being integrated into the Olympics that is part of an upcoming book that touches on ethics, law and trends in the sports industry.

Spradley reviewed a chapter on the development of eSports – also known as competitive video gaming – for the book “Law, Ethics and Integrity in the Sports Industry,” currently under development by Hershey, Pa., based publisher IGI Global, a leading international academic publisher of reference books, journals, encyclopedias, teaching cases and more. Spradley reviewed the chapter called “ESports at the Olympic Games: From Physicality to Virtuality.”

Spradley is sought for his expertise on eSports and recently was featured internationally on Learning English, Voice of America’s multimedia source of news and information for English learners worldwide. He has conducted scholarly research on the growth of eSports, including co-authoring a piece on the subject for *The Sport Journal*, the Academy’s peer-reviewed online journal of sports. The piece can be read here: <http://thesportjournal.org/article/recognizing-esports-as-a-sport/>. ■



Dr. Brandon Spradley



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The Academy presented employees with awards for service milestones. From left are Robin Stephens, financial aid and graduate admissions counselor (five years); Jennifer Sellers, human resources coordinator (five years); President and CEO Dr. T.J. Rosandich (40 years); Director of Doctoral Studies Dr. Fred Cromartie (20 years); Dean of Academic Affairs Dr. Stephen Butler (five years); and Jennifer Pepper, instructional designer (five years). Shown inset is MaryLynn Allred, financial aid counselor (five years).

Coaching, Sports Professions Continue to Grow **By Dr. Bret Simmermacher**

As we look back on an amazing college football season that saw the College Football Playoff rankings change time and time again, one memory of the year includes seeing coaches and staffs feverishly working the sidelines and booths to pull off that next big win.

The season saw a lot of discussion about the addition of new and specialized professionals to the coaching and support teams throughout college football, including the use of “analysts,” highly specialized position and skills coaches, expanded support staffs and other related positions.

Whatever one’s personal stand might be on the trend of football and other college sports becoming more prominent, more complex and more thoroughly staffed, one thing is true – coaching and specialized sports related professions are a growth industry.

The growth of sports and increased competition for high quality, well trained sports professionals are driving a greater demand for people with coaching and related specialized skills, creating greater opportunity in both the numbers of positions and the salaries sports professionals are paid. This trend is also driving the need for people to educate themselves to pursue these opportunities.

Sports managers, sports coaches, athletic academic advisors, athletic finance directors, directors of athletic communication, sports psychologists, sports dieticians, sports security personnel and others have to be educated with a great degree of sophistication and specialization in these areas. One does not just step into the sports professions without intense training in his or her specialized area of employment.

Sports professionals can be found from the youth level to the professional level, and people are needed for these positions who have trained for their specific roles. This training includes education in sports management, sports marketing, sports security, strength and conditioning, sports psychology and sports coaching to name a few.

As the chair of sports coaching at the Academy, I am encouraged to know that opportunities in coaching and sports-related professions are continuing to grow. Many youth programs, high schools, colleges, and professional sports organizations are looking for individuals willing to educate themselves in coaching and sports-related professions.

Like any other profession it takes time, focus, and dedication to your sport of expertise to teach it properly to players at all levels or to serve as an important support professional in your chosen area of sport. A great combination of education and “paying your dues” in the coaching profession to move from one level to the next can be the key to a rewarding career in sport. There are plenty of examples of major college and professional coaches in all sports who started as a high school coach and developed a network to catapult them into the position they currently hold.



Dr. Bret Simmermacher

Sport is a highly competitive field and there are no guarantees. However, like other professions, having the right combination of experience and a degree in sport will certainly enhance your chances of reaching your goal. As one of the world’s leading educators of sports professionals, we at the United States Sports Academy welcome you to look at how our academic programs can prepare you for an exciting career in sport. Please visit us at www.ussa.edu.

Dr. Bret Simmermacher is the Chair of Sports Coaching at the United States Sports Academy, where he earned his Doctor of Sport Management degree. He is a former college and professional baseball player and a multi-sport coach at the high school and college level. ■

The Academy Teaches Abroad...



Students in Thailand participate in the Academy’s international education programs to prepare them for leadership roles in sport in that country.



Experienced professor of sports marketing and law Dr. Kimberly Willis recently taught a sports media relations course for the Academy as part of its international sports education program to enhance the training of football (soccer) administrators in the United Arab Emirates.



National Faculty member Charles Temple, standing, recently has been teaching in the Academy’s international sports education programs in the United Arab Emirates and Malaysia.



Students in Malaysia participate in the Academy’s international education programs to prepare them for careers in the physical education industry in that country.

Academy Enhances International Education Efforts Through Presidential Tour of Nations

The Academy has expanded its commitment to global sport education through a successful tour of nations by President and CEO Dr. T.J. Rosandich that included meetings and new cooperative agreements with international sport leaders. Rosandich made a month-long journey that included discussions with key leaders in sport, education and government in China, Malaysia, the Philippines and the United Arab Emirates.

Republic of the Philippines

The Academy has signed an agreement to work with the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) to enhance the national sport effort in the island nation.

Academy President and CEO Dr. T.J. Rosandich signed the agreement with PSC Chair William “Butch” Ramirez with members of the PSC delegation and Academy faculty and Trustees present during a recent visit by the delegation to the Academy campus in Daphne.

The agreement marks the return of the Academy’s international programs to the Republic of the Philippines, where it taught certification programs in the early 1980s.

“We taught our international certification programs in sports management and coaching in the island nation in the early 1980s, so to return is meaningful indeed,” Rosandich said.

“The Academy is looking forward to playing a role in the enhancing of the national sport effort in the Philippines through our programs in education, research and service. Having taught sports education programs to more than 65 countries, this partnership with the Philippines is a continuation of our mission.”

“We have a great respect for the United States Sports Academy because of the work it did with our country in the past,” Ramirez said. “We are grateful for all the Academy has done and we look forward to restarting the relationship we had for so many years.”

The collaboration will begin immediately, as the Academy will soon send a faculty member to the Philippines to teach a sports governance and financial administration course to senior officials in the PSC and in the Philippine Olympic Committee. Future courses on a wide range of sport topics will be taught to support the development of sport at the national and interscholastic levels in the Philippines, helping to educate the coaches and managers responsible for the long-term growth of success of sport in the country.

The team of leaders from the PSC recently visited the Academy following the signing of a “Protocol of Cooperation” in Davao, Philippines, during a visit by Rosandich to the Philippines last October.

The Academy will be working with government entities and organizations designated by the PSC in consultation with the Department of Education, Commission on Higher Education, Philippine Olympic Committee, Department of the Interior and Local Government and national sports organizations.

Thailand

The Academy’s relationship with Thailand to educate sports leaders continues as it conducts the International Certification in Sports Coaching (ICSC) and International Certification in Sports Management (ICSM) programs in Bangkok.

The ICSC program includes a range of coaching and administrative skills, while the ICSM program includes management topics such as sports event planning, marketing and public relations, and facilities.



President and CEO Dr. T.J. Rosandich, seated left, signed an agreement with PSC Chair William “Butch” Ramirez, seated second from left, to help enhance that country’s national sport programs at all levels. Also shown are, standing from left: Academy Trustees Darrelyn Dunmore and Susan McCollough, Academy Chair of Recreation Management Dr. Rodney Blackman and Interim Dean of Academic Affairs and Director of Doctoral Studies Dr. Fred Cromartie. Seated from left are Rosandich, Ramirez, Academy Founding President Dr. Thomas P. Rosandich, PSI deputy training director Henry Daut and PSC Director of Operations Dr. Sergio Opena.



Academy President and CEO Dr. T.J. Rosandich, second from right, recently was keynote speaker for the International Conference on Physical Education, Recreation, Fitness and Sports Science in Davao, Philippines, where he discussed the role of education in sports development with an international audience of leaders in sport.

Approximately 50 students are drawn from the Sports Authority of Thailand (SAT) and affiliated organizations to attend the programs, with as many as 100 students involved each year. At the conclusion of the classroom portion, the SAT selects students for a study tour of sport in America. A delegation of approximately 15 students and administrators takes part in a tour of sports organizations and venues for two weeks in the United States, including a visit to the Academy.

This year the Academy’s programs in Thailand have been expanded

through the addition of the National Sports Coaching Program (NSCP), a certification program designed to meet the advanced needs of Thai coaching professionals and to aid them in becoming leaders of their coaching communities. Under the program, 35 students will attend four advanced coaching courses in Bangkok to introduce them to the latest in coaching theory, and 10 exceptional student-coaches will be chosen by the SAT to participate in a hands-on practicum opportunity in the United States in September.

United Arab Emirates

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

The Academy is providing 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.



President and CEO Dr. T.J. Rosandich, center, meets with Marwan bin Ghalita, left, president of the UAEFA, and Dr. Khalid Al Hashimi, managing director of the UAEFA FAA, during a recent visit to the UAE to discuss the FAA's success in educating coaches, administrators and leaders in football (soccer) in the UAE. The FAA was developed through a collaboration between the Academy and UAEFA.

People's Republic of China

The Academy president met with sports leaders in Beijing and Shanghai, where discussion themes included possible new initiatives to improve the physical fitness and social development of China's youth. These included an agreement in principle for the Academy to be involved in development of sports camps based on its experience in this field.

In Shanghai, discussions focused on the 2018 rendition of the International Diploma in Sports Coaching (IDSC) program. Conducted by the Academy and the Shanghai Municipal Authority of Sports (SMAS), the program provides classroom instruction, experiential learning, and a mentorship in the United States for former elite athletes in the Shanghai area to prepare them for careers in coaching and athletic related fields. Approximately 20 people will travel to the U.S. under the program this year.

Malaysia

Discussions in Malaysia focused on the Academy program that continues to train the people responsible for improving the health and life skills of youth.

Launched in 2012 and currently under way, the Academy's International Diploma in Physical Education and Sports Coaching (IDPESC) program has trained thousands of teachers in critical physical education and coaching skills. The Academy's "Train the Trainers" (TOT) program continues to assist the Malaysian government in its National Service Training Program (NSTP). Academy instructors are responsible for training the instructors who in turn teach sport and physical fitness skills to more than 250,000 Malaysian youth as part of the country's NSTP curriculum.

Africa

The Academy has made progress toward boosting sport education and development in Africa.

Gabon: The Academy signed a new five-year cooperative agreement to strengthen the national sports program of the central African nation of Gabon. The Academy will work with Gabon on enhancements including youth sports, sport facilities, national teams, and strength and conditioning.

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

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



In a recent meeting in Beijing, Academy President and CEO Dr. T.J. Rosandich, left, signs a letter of agreement with Dr. Jie "Jack" Guo, president of Beijing Worldteam Sports Development and a leading sport entrepreneur in China, to work collaboratively to enhance sports camps in that country.

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Where Are They Now?

Karen Carty (M.S.S. Sports Management, 2009)

Karen M. Carty is using her master's degree to lead the sports marketing program at Louisiana's Grambling State University (GSU).

A native of St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands, Carty is completing her first year as the assistant athletics director for marketing and communications at GSU. Prior to Grambling, Carty worked in the athletics department at South Carolina State University (SCSU) as the director of marketing and in media relations for the school's volleyball, women's soccer, women's basketball and softball teams.

"I chose to pursue my master's degree at the Academy because I knew I wanted to work in sports and I felt that the classes offered by the Academy would properly prepare me for the career I wanted," Carty said. ■



Karen Carty

Aimee Fador (B.S.S. Sports Management, 2009)

Aimee Fador was a highly regarded high school basketball player who could have gone to college on an athletic scholarship, but, like many people, special family circumstances kept her from leaving home to attend college immediately after high school graduation.



Aimee Fador

She never lost sight of her goal to become a basketball coach, and in 2009 she was able to take advantage of the Academy's online program to earn her Bachelor of Sports Science degree in sports management.

Fador is now works at the Williams School – a small, liberal arts private school on the campus of Connecticut College in New London, Conn. Fador is the assistant athletic director, physical education and health teacher, and varsity girls' basketball coach at the school.

"I am truly a very proud alumna and I thank the Academy for providing me such a wonderful education and opportunity," Fador said. ■

Scott Garvis (M.S.S. Sports Management, 2005)

Scott Garvis, who has worked as the athletics and activities director at Newton (Iowa) Senior High School for five years, will soon move into a similar position at Ankeny (Iowa) Centennial High School.

Garvis earned his Academy degree while working as athletic director and assistant principal at Muscatine (Iowa) High School.

"My education from the Academy has opened many doors throughout my career," Garvis said. "Many of my foundational skills were developed at the Academy. My professors provided me with real world knowledge and skills to better serve my student-athletes and coaches. One of the key factors in choosing the Academy was its focus on sport. I also enjoyed the professors and their insights into the sport industry." ■



Scott Garvis

Dr. Sandra Geringer

(Ed.D. Sports Management, 2017)

Dr. Sandra K. Geringer says the Academy opened doors for her in many ways, including the opportunity to teach abroad, earn her doctorate, and teach Academy students as the Director of Sports Studies.

Geringer recently completed her Doctor of Education degree in sports management with an emphasis in sport marketing, with honors. She began her doctoral studies with the Academy in 2015 and worked her way up to become the Acting Director of Sports Studies in 2016.



Dr. Sandra Geringer

"Earning my doctorate and the title of Director of Sports Studies was an honor and a relief," Geringer said. "It was a lot of hard work, but

I was always motivated because I knew that I would get to this point and be able to focus on teaching. I am truly grateful to the Academy for giving me this opportunity." ■

Jody Hodgson

(M.S.S. Sports Management, 1995)

Jody Hodgson, the manager of one of the largest sports arenas in North Dakota, says his Academy education helped launch his career in the sports facilities management field.

Hodgson earned his Master of Sports Science degree in sports management in 1995. A resident of Grand Forks, N.D., Hodgson is the general manager at the Ralph Engelstad Arena, which is known for hosting University of North Dakota (UND) hockey and men's and women's basketball games.

For his master's degree mentorship program, Hodgson worked for the San Francisco Spiders of the International Hockey League.

"My master's degree from the Academy gave me the opportunity to get that very important first-job in the sports industry and my education from the Academy has helped me differentiate myself from other



Jody Hodgson

candidates in the sports industry during my career," Hodgson said. "My mentorship directly led to my opportunity to work in the sports industry." ■

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Dr. China Jude (M.S.S. Sports Management, 1996)

Dr. China Jude was recently hired to a senior athletics administration position at the University of Wyoming. Jude recently made a long-sought jump to NCAA Division I upon being hired as the senior associate athletics director for administration and Senior Woman Administrator (SWA) at the University of Wyoming. She credits the Academy for inspiring her to be the best she can be in the sports management and administration field.

“I started the Academy as someone who worked in sports, but left as a sports professional,” Jude said. “My time there gave me the practical experience I needed to work in the field, and it gave me the knowledge to be able to articulate my views, core values and priorities. The Academy transformed my life for the better and I couldn’t be more proud to be a graduate.” ■



Dr. China Jude

Chad Lunsford (M.S.S. Sports Management, 2002)



Chad Lunsford

Chad Lunsford, who served on the staff that led Auburn University to the 2010 BCS National Championship in football, was promoted to head football coach at Georgia Southern University (GSU) in Statesboro, Ga.

“Being able to get my master’s degree in sports management at the Academy – with the administrative and operations side – allowed me to learn about the business side of sports and how to manage certain situations,” Lunsford said. “It is something I rely on heavily, especially now as a head coach.” ■

Dr. Bonnie Tiell (Ed.D. Sports Management, 2004)

Dr. Bonnie Tiell recently earned the Provost Award, the highest annual honor given to a faculty member at Tiffin University in Tiffin, Ohio, where she serves as a professor of sport management. She has been widely recognized for her contributions to intercollegiate athletic administration and global sports governance. Tiell was named Academy Alumnus of the Year in 2014 and serves on the Academy’s National Faculty.

She is the founder and co-director of the Olympic Academic Experience (OAE), a program through Tiffin University that offers students from around the world the opportunity for on-site study of the organization, supervision, and management of international sport venues and elite competition in an Olympic host city.

She is also co-founder of a humanitarian program for underprivileged youth in Olympic host cities with Academy alumnus Dr. Francis Dove-Edwin, who serves as co-director. ■



Dr. Bonnie Tiell

Dr. Joseph Underwood (M.S.S. Sports Medicine, 1987)

Athletic trainer and teacher Dr. Joseph Underwood has been named to a prestigious fellowship from the National Education Association (NEA).



Dr. Joseph Underwood

Underwood was named an NEA Foundation Global Fellow. He will serve in a professional development program to enhance global education in grades K-12 in the United States.

Underwood earned his Master of Sports Science degree in sports medicine from the Academy in 1987. He has worked at Miami (Fla.) Senior High School since 1985 as the school’s head athletic trainer between 1987 and 2000, while also serving as the television production teacher.

Underwood’s Academy degree allowed him to become the head athletic trainer at the high school, where he has helped a host of notable athletes achieve success, such as NBA players Udonis Haslem and Steve Blake and NFL players Roscoe Parish and Andrew Johnson, to name a few. ■

Academy Seeks Nominations for Alumni of the Year Award

The Academy is seeking nominations for its Alumni of the Year Award, given each year to the most outstanding graduate who represents the ideals of sport and of the Academy.

The Academy would like to hear from you if you have noteworthy achievements so that we may consider you for the annual award. Or, if you know of an alumnus or alumna who has significant accomplishments, let the Academy know as well.

The Academy also needs your help in identifying candidates for additional honors under the 2018 Academy’s Awards of Sport program.

Nominations can be submitted by any member of the Academy’s worldwide family. This includes faculty, staff, students, alumni, administration, National Faculty and advisory boards that serve the Academy. Screened and selected by the Academy’s Awards of Sport Committee, candidates are ultimately approved by the Board of Trustees.

Past recipients of the Alumni of the Year Award have included graduates representing all areas of the sport profession including athletic directors; athletes; military leaders; college faculty, administrators and researchers; sports entrepreneurs; and many others. For award details visit www.asama.org.

Nominations and suggestions for the Alumni of the Year and all other Awards of Sport should be submitted to communications@ussa.edu. ■

Noemi Zaharia (Pursuing Ed.D. in Sports Management)

Noemi Zaharia is an Olympic medalist, world Universiade champion, successful former collegiate swimming coach, athletics administrator and doctoral student at the Academy.

Zaharia’s swimming record includes two medals in swimming at the 1988 Summer Olympics in Seoul, South Korea, winning silver in the 400 meter mixed and bronze in the 200 meter mixed for Romania. She also won five gold medals, two bronze medals and MVP honors in swimming at the 1987 Summer Universiade in Yugoslavia. She also competed in the 1992 Summer Olympics in Barcelona, Spain. She is director of the Aquatic and Fitness Center at Miami (Fla.) Dade College.

“The education I am receiving from the Academy is priceless as it is focused on sports management, and the professors are very knowledgeable in sports and education,” Zaharia said. “Having a curriculum that is strictly focused on sports is exceptional as it offers a multitude of angles and aspects of sports.” ■



Noemi Zaharia

Academy Holds 33rd Annual Awards of Sport Program

The Academy recently held its 33rd Annual Awards of Sport program, a celebration of sport and art and “A Tribute to the Artist and the Athlete.”

A highlight of the event held on the Academy’s Daphne campus was the unveiling and donation to ASAMA’s permanent art collection works by the Academy’s 2017 Sport Artists of the Year: sculptor Richard Watkins of Atlanta, Ga., and painter William Williams of Battle Creek, Mich (*see page 13*).

Watkins’ award-winning sculptures are known for capturing the energy, dynamics and balance of amazing athletes at that single moment of intense action: the slam dunk, the long pass into the end zone, the double play. He exaggerates the physical proportions to an extreme, giving them incredible action and an engaging quality. His donation, a basketball piece entitled “Slam Dunk,” is now on display at ASAMA .

Williams is nationally known for his classical artistic approach to representing the glory of sports through his realistic still life oil paintings. His work is in the permanent collections of the National Baseball Hall of Fame, the College Football Hall of Fame, the Commissioner of the National Basketball Association, the New York Yankees, and many others. His donation now on display at ASAMA is a still life entitled

“Satchel’s Monarchs” which depicts artifacts related to legendary baseball player Satchel Paige. ■



The Academy recently held its 33rd Annual Awards of Sport program on campus. Honorees, seated from left, are Sport Artist of the Year, Sculptor, Richard Watkins of Atlanta, Ga.; Dwight D. Eisenhower Fitness Award winner Fairfax Hackley, master trainer and bodybuilder from Falls Church, Va.; Alumnus of the Year Dr. Dave Shrock of Modesto, Calif. (Ed.D, Sports Management, 2009), USA Track & Field leader and Academy National Faculty member; Dr. Ernst Jokl Sports Medicine Award winner Dr. Kenneth Cameron, director of Orthopaedic Research at Keller Army Community Hospital in West Point, N.Y.; and Sport Artist of the Year, Painter, William Williams of Battle Creek, Mich. Respective presenters were trustees, second row from left, Jack Scharr of St. Louis, Mo.; Dr. Gary Cunningham of Santa Barbara, Calif., Academy President and CEO Dr. T.J. Rosandich of Fairhope, Ala., Dr. Don Wukasch of Austin, Texas, and Susan McCollough of Gulf Shores, Ala. Shown third row from left are trustee Dr. Nick Niccolai of Mobile, Ala., and trustee and Founding President Dr. T.P. Rosandich of Daphne, Ala.

Hackley wins Eisenhower Fitness Award

Receiving the Dwight David Eisenhower Fitness Award at the event was master personal trainer Fairfax Hackley, who won 12 class titles in bodybuilding and later served as a judge and as director of the Mr. America contest. He spent more than 20 years in the sport, winning the International Federation of Body Building and Fitness (IFBB) Silver and Gold Awards for Excellence in Administration. He has trained numerous celebrities and athletes, including boxers and mixed martial arts (MMA) fighters. He has worked closely with the Arnold (Schwarzenegger) Sports Festival in Columbus, Ohio. The resident of Falls Church, Va., is a member of the International Sports Hall of Fame, serving on its advisory board. ■

Shrock Named Alumnus of the Year

Among other key honors at the event, Dr. Dave Shrock was named the Academy’s Alumnus of the Year. A national leader in track and field and an Academy National Faculty member, Shrock earned a Doctor of Education degree in Sports Management from the Academy in 2009. He has taught sports marketing and sports leadership for the Academy’s international sport education programs in Thailand, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates. ■

Cameron Wins Sports Medicine Award

Also in attendance was the winner of the Dr. Ernst Jokl Sports Medicine Award, Dr. Kenneth Cameron, who is director of Orthopaedic Research at Keller Army Community Hospital in West Point, N.Y. Cameron’s

primary research interests are in the areas of injury prevention, musculoskeletal injury and disease epidemiology, and outcomes associated with the treatment of these injuries, specifically in physically active and military populations. ■

IN MEMORIAM

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

Dr. Herb Appenzeller

Dr. Herb Appenzeller was a longtime Academy National Faculty member and 2011 Distinguished Service Award winner. He was one of the leading and most respected scholars on sports law and sports risk management.

Dick Enberg

Dick Enberg was a legendary sports broadcaster who earned the Academy’s Ronald Reagan Media Award twice – 1989 and 2013. He worked in the broadcasting industry for more than half a century and coined his signature catchphrase “Oh, my!” after big plays.

Keith Jackson

Keith Jackson was a legendary sports broadcaster who won the Academy’s Ronald Reagan Media Award in 1990. Jackson was widely regarded as the voice of college football after spending 50 years in the business.

George Killian

George Killian was a longtime Academy Board of Visitors member, Honorary Doctorate recipient and 2007 Eagle Award winner. He was the former president of the International University Sports Federation (FISU) and director of the National Junior College Athletic Association. ■

Florida Track Coach Holloway Presented Stagg Award



After leading the University of Florida (UF) men's track and field team to its second consecutive and seventh overall national championship, head track and field coach Mike Holloway has been named the 2017 Amos Alonzo Stagg Coaching Award winner.

Holloway has molded the Gators' track and field team into one of the nation's elite programs over the last 22 seasons. He is one of seven coaches in NCAA Division 1 history to win seven men's team national championships and one of three coaches in history to win at least three national titles both indoors and outdoors.

Holloway (right) received the award at the annual UF track and field banquet from Dr. Liston D. Bochette III, an Academy Trustee Emeritus who now serves on its Board of Visitors. Bochette, a UF Track and Field Hall of Fame athlete, competed in the Olympics before serving as Secretary General of the World Olympians Association and founder of the Art of the Olympians, a Fort Myers, Fla.-based museum showcasing artwork by Olympic athletes. Bochette was the Academy's American Sport Art Museum and Archives (ASAMA) 1996 Sport Artist of the Year. ■

Ice Hockey's Fasel Earns Eagle Award



Dr. René Fasel, D.M.D., president of the International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) and an influential figure in ice hockey for more than 40 years, has received the United States Sports Academy's 2017 Eagle Award, the Academy's highest international honor.

Fasel (left) recently was presented the award by Academy trustee Joseph Szlavik at the 2018 IIHF World Junior Championship at KeyBank Center in Buffalo, N.Y.

As IIHF president, Fasel is credited with establishing closer relationships between the federation and professional organizations in North America, including the National Hockey League (NHL). Under his leadership, the top professional hockey players from the NHL competed for the first time in the Winter Olympic Games, participating in 1998 in Nagano, Japan. ■

Brady, Park Named 2017 Athletes of the Year

New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady and South Korean golfer Sung Hyun Park were named the winners of the 2017 male and female Athlete of the Year awards.

Brady completed 43 of 62 passes for 466 yards and two touchdowns as the Patriots defeated the Atlanta Falcons 34-28 in Super Bowl LI. Brady was named MVP after leading the Patriots back from a 28-3 deficit in the third quarter, the largest comeback in Super Bowl history. His 466 passing yards and 62 passing attempts were Super Bowl records. Brady is also a leading candidate for the NFL's 2017-18 MVP award, having led his team back to Super Bowl LII. Brady is the only NFL quarterback to win five Super Bowls. Brady was previously selected as the Academy's male Athlete of the



Year for 2015.

Rookie LPGA golfer Park, of the Republic of Korea, won the LPGA's money title, shared LPGA Player of the Year honors with fellow South Korean golfer So Yeon Ryu and won the LPGA Rookie of the Year award. Park clinched the money title with \$2.4 million earned and became just the third rookie ever to lead the LPGA tour in money. She is the first player since Nancy Lopez in 1978 to sweep the Rookie of the Year, Player of the Year and money titles in a season. She also finished second for the lowest scoring average at 69.247. Park won the U.S. Women's Open and the Canadian Pacific Women's Open. She also became the first ever rookie to rise to number one in the Rolex Women's World Golf rankings. ■



Dr. Mina Papatheodorou Valyraki

Valyraki, Weldon Hold ‘Women Bridging Worlds’ Exhibit in Greece

Two highly accomplished artists from different continents separated by thousands of miles came together for a joint exhibition in Greece through a relationship built upon shared involvement with the Academy’s American Sport Art Museum and Archives (ASAMA).

Reflecting the global reach of the Academy and ASAMA, artists Dr. Mina Papatheodorou Valyraki of Athens, Greece, and B’Beth Weldon of Fairhope,

Ala., shared a month-long exhibition in Athens entitled “Women Bridging Worlds: Celebrating Artistic and Cultural Crossroads.”

After an opening reception on Friday, 16 March 2018, the exhibition ran through 14 April 2018. It was held at the famed Ikastikos Kiklos Sianti Gallery in Athens.

Weldon serves on the Academy’s Art Committee and Valyraki is the Academy’s 2002 Sport Artist of the Year, a member of the Academy’s Board of Visitors and an Emerita member of the Academy’s Board of Trustees. Both have taught sport and art classes as members of the Academy’s National Faculty, a group of highly qualified individuals who teach the Academy’s post-secondary non-degree programs around the world.

The two became acquainted through Academy Founding President Dr. Thomas P. Rosandich, who also founded ASAMA on the Academy campus in Daphne, Ala., where both artists have works on display. The

two artists met in Greece in 2017 and decided on the joint exhibit.

Both artists are known for their use of light and color to reflect constant, vibrant movement. Valyraki’s works in the exhibit will feature cranes, ships and her urban series, which includes works featuring interactions between automobiles and the landscape. Weldon’s works will include her “Prismatic Series,” “Urban Series,” and her “Blue Paintings.”

Valyraki is known worldwide for her abstract expressionist paintings featuring a variety of subjects from athletes to automobiles. In 2013, she was awarded the Guirlande d’Honneur, the highest award presented by the Federation Internationale Cinema Television Sportifs (FICTS), an organization that promotes the values of sport through film and television. In 2017 she received the FICTS Mention D’Honneur Award in Arts and Sports. She won the International Olympic Committee’s 2014 Art and Sport Award.

Weldon is an internationally exhibited and collected artist and has her studio in Fairhope, Ala. Recognized for her abstracts, landscapes and sport art, Weldon’s award-winning work can be found in galleries and select public and private collections in the United States, Europe and Asia, including ASAMA, Beijing Sport University, RCA Records, and the Renaissance Hotel. ■



B’Beth Weldon

Museum Receives David Levinthal Photo Collection

The Academy received an anonymous donation of 121 pieces of photographic art by world renowned photographer David Levinthal to add to its ASAMA collection.

Levinthal is known throughout the art world for using large-format 20×24 Polaroids to create unique oversized photo images with a close focus and shallow depth of field. Levinthal photographs small toys and props with dramatic lighting to construct small environments with varying subject matter – from sports to war to politics and pop culture.

The pieces donated to ASAMA depict classic baseball and hockey figures in rich, colorful and authentic backgrounds. The collection includes 94 baseball and 27 hockey images, including such greats as Babe Ruth, Ted Williams, Nolan Ryan, and Ty Cobb.

Academy Art Committee member Stephen Savage said the pieces are a “wonderful addition to ASAMA,” which is home to more than 1,800 works of sport art across a variety of media. Savage is a longtime professional photographer, art teacher and instructor of photography at Spring Hill College in Mobile, Ala.

“David Levinthal is world class,” Savage said. “The art here at the United States Sports Academy is tremendous, and his work is a great addition to the collection. These photographs are appreciated and highly valued in the art world.

“The thing that is interesting about David Levinthal is that he uses mundane figurines and creates this whole rich and colorful world around them,” Savage said. “That’s an incredible thing to do and his work is beautiful.

“Levinthal uses the large-format Polaroid camera and he gets extremely close to the subject itself, which creates a shallow depth of field. He creates these wonderful tableaux and puts these figurines in there. They are just plastic toys, but he is able to make them look so lifelike. There are not many people who do this style of photography, and there are very few who do it well,” Savage said. “David Levinthal is the best, of course.

“It is an accessible medium because everyone enjoys these photographs. You see these toys, and I don’t know if it is because everyone grew up playing with them, but they are just so attractive.” ■



The Academy recently received an anonymous donation of 121 pieces of sport art by world renowned photographer David Levinthal. Pictured with a Levinthal work depicting Babe Ruth are, from left, Art Committee member and Academy Founding President and Dr. Thomas P. Rosandich; committee chair Nancy Raia and committee member Stephen Savage.

Autographed Neiman Print Donated to Museum



Fairhope resident Jeff Hosterman, left, recently donated an autographed print, "Portrait of a Tiger," by LeRoy Neiman, famed sport artist and 2007 United States Sports Academy Sport Artist of the Year, to ASAMA. Receiving is Academy President and CEO Dr. T.J. Rosandich.

A Fairhope resident donated an autographed tiger print by famed sport artist LeRoy Neiman to ASAMA.

Jeff Hosterman donated "Portrait of a Tiger" to the Academy, which honored Neiman with its 2007 Sport Artist of the Year Award. Neiman, credited by many as the inventor of contemporary sport art, died in 2012 at the age of 91. ASAMA has several of his works on display.

Hosterman recently moved to Fairhope after retiring from the electronic banking industry in Atlanta. He said a visit to ASAMA as a new resident in the community inspired him to make the gift.

"The American Sport Art Museum and Archives is a beautiful place," he said. "The museum is the right place for this art, not at my home, so people can enjoy it with the rest of the great art here." ■

Rush Signed Prints Donated to ASAMA

Two collectors of the work of world renowned sport artist and Academy 2011 Sport Artist of the Year Rick Rush donated a large collection of his signed serigraphs to the collection of the ASAMA.

Michael and Donna McIntyre of Destin, Fla., recently donated 46 Rick Rush signed prints to ASAMA, where many will be put on display along with the Academy's already large collection of the artist's works. Rush, known as "America's Sport Artist," has gained a worldwide following for his colorful paintings that depict a variety of sports.

Rush has depicted high-profile sports figures such as Joe Namath, Coach Paul "Bear" Bryant, Muhammad Ali, Albert Pujols, Nolan Ryan, Bo Jackson and countless others. His works portray subjects of historic significance and include the Olympics, Super Bowls, World Series, and NCAA National Championships.

Numerous pieces of his art grace the walls at ASAMA including "Finishing Strong," a NASCAR-themed original painting which was also donated to the museum and depicts legendary drivers Jimmie Johnson, Jeff Gordon and Dale Earnhardt Jr. The artist also presented to ASAMA an original work, "Right on Course," which depicts famed golfer Bubba Watson winning his historic second Masters championship.



Academy Founding President and Art Committee member Dr. Thomas P. Rosandich, Academy Trustee and Art Committee member Emerita Susan McCollough (center) and Academy Art Committee Chair Nancy Raia admire selections from the Rick Rush collection at ASAMA.

Rush, of Tuscaloosa, Ala., is the Academy's 2011 Sport Artist of the Year in painting. The award is presented annually to an individual who captures the spirit and life of sport so that future generations can relive the drama of today's competition. ■

Sport Artists of the Year Gifts

Richard Watkins, ASAMA's 2017 Sport Artist of the Year, Sculptor, donated his work, "Slam Dunk" to the museum. William M. Williams, the 2017 Sport Artist of the Year, Painter, donated "Satchel's Monarchs." The painting honors legendary baseball player Satchel Paige. Both works are on permanent display at the museum ([see page 10](#)). ■



Slam Dunk



Satchel's Monarchs

Academy Art Displayed at Stillman College

ASAMA loaned six works from its collection to Stillman College for its campus art walk held in conjunction with the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

The art walk was Saturday, 13 January 2018 in Tuscaloosa, Ala. The six selections feature African-American themes and most were created by African-American artists.

Shown with "The Dream Unfolds" by the late Ernie Barnes, ASAMA Sport Artist of the Year in 1984 and 2004, are Kyris Brown, left, Stillman director of international affairs and recruiting, and Holly McLellan, Academy dean of administration and finance. ■



Academy Hosts Accreditation Reaffirmation Team

The Academy hosted the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) Onsite Reaffirmation Committee as part of its 2018 10-Year Accreditation Reaffirmation.

As America's only freestanding accredited sports university, the Academy was first accredited in 1983. The institution's accreditation was last reaffirmed in 2008.

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

SACSCOC's reaffirmation process has two major elements: compliance with the Principles of Accreditation and implementation of a "Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP)," a special project to provide continued enhancement to student learning.

The Academy's QEP will focus on boosting the research skills of degree-seeking students at the bachelor's level to improve their chances for success at the Academy, in graduate school, and in their careers in sports.

Accreditation by SACSCOC, according to the organization, "signifies that the institution has a mission appropriate to higher education; has resources, programs, and services sufficient to accomplish and sustain that mission; and maintains clearly specified educational objectives that are consistent with its mission and appropriate to the degrees it offers, and that indicate whether it is successful in achieving its stated objectives."

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

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

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

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

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



The Academy recently hosted the SACSCOC Onsite Reaffirmation Committee as part of its 2018 10-Year Accreditation Reaffirmation.

Trustee Emeritus Lengyel Wins Tuss McLaughry Award

Former college football coach and long-time athletic administrator Jack Lengyel has been selected for the Tuss McLaughry Award, the highest honor given by the American Football Coaches Association (AFCA).

Lengyel is an Academy trustee emeritus, Board of Visitors member and recipient of honorary doctorates from the Academy in 1998 and 2010. He is also the former committee chairman of the Academy's College Football Game of the Year program.

Lengyel received the award during the 2018 AFCA Convention in Charlotte, N.C. The award is given to a distinguished American for the highest distinction in service to others. It is named in honor of DeOrmond "Tuss" McLaughry, the first full-time secretary-treasurer of the AFCA and one of the most dedicated and influential members in the history of the association. The award was established in 1964.

"I am humbled and honored to be selected for the American Football Coaches Association's Tuss McLaughry Award, and to be associated with those legendary former recipients," Lengyel said. "I want to thank my wife Sandy, my children David, Julie and Peter, for their dedicated support throughout my career. I stand on the shoulders of my former players, coaches, mentors, supporters and family, and share this award with each and every one of them."

Past winners include U.S. presidents, military and governmental leaders, legendary coaches, actors and entertainers, astronauts, authors, business leaders and other luminaries. ■



Jack Lengyel

Goldman Receives Arnold Lifetime Achievement Award

Academy Board of Visitors chairman Dr. Robert M. Goldman received the 2018 Arnold Classic Lifetime Achievement Award from Arnold Schwarzenegger at the recent 30th anniversary celebration of the annual Arnold Sports Festival.

The award is presented annually to an individual who has made notable contributions to the fitness industry and offered lifetime of service to the enhancement of sports performance and promotion. Goldman was recognized for his numerous contributions to sport, including founding the International Sports Hall of Fame (ISHOF) and his long-time work in fitness and anti-aging medicine.

Goldman founded ISHOF in 2012 to honor individuals who have made outstanding contributions to sport and inductions are held each year at the Arnold Sports Festival in Columbus, Ohio. Arnold Festival co-founders Schwarzenegger and Jim Lorimer were among the inaugural ISHOF class, and Academy Founding President Dr. Thomas P. Rosandich was inducted in 2017 for his leadership in creation of the Academy. ■



Dr. Robert M. Goldman, right, receives the award from Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Porter Earns 'Collar of Honour' Award

Don Porter has spent most of his adult life diligently promoting softball around the world, and now the World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) has honored his dedication to the sport by awarding him its Collar of Honour.

Porter, who has served on the United States Sports Academy's National Faculty and is currently a member of its Board of Visitors, was awarded the honor by WBSC President Riccardo Fraccari during the organization's recent meeting in Botswana. Porter was the president of the International Softball Federation (ISF) when it merged with the International Baseball Federation (IBAF) to become the WBSC.

The Collar of Honour is the supreme recognition given by the WBSC. It honors those people who contributed to the foundation of the organization and its success.

Under Porter's leadership, softball was first elected to be part of the Olympic program for the Atlanta 1996 Olympics. After the sport's removal from the Games following the Beijing 2008 Olympics, Porter helped found the WBSC, which set as a goal the inclusion of baseball and softball in the Olympic program. ■



Don Porter

Founding President, Board Chair Share Memories



Academy Founding President Dr. Thomas P. Rosandich (center left) and Founding Academy Board of Trustees Chairman Dr. Robert Block (center right) met for dinner recently in Mobile where they shared pleasant memories, including more than four decades of working together in support of the Academy. Joining them were Block's son, David Block (left), and current Academy President and CEO Dr. T.J. Rosandich (right). ■

Academy Programs Ranked Top 10 Online Sports Bachelor's Degrees in "U.S. News & World Report"

"U.S. News & World Report" has ranked all of the Academy's bachelor's degree programs among the top 10 online sports bachelor's degrees in the nation for 2018.

The organization's annual "Best Online Bachelor's Programs" survey ranked the Academy's bachelor's degrees in Sports Management, Sports Coaching, Sports Studies, and Sports Strength & Conditioning among the top 10 online degrees of their type in the nation for 2018.

The annual survey ranks online bachelor's degree programs based on student engagement, student services and technology, faculty credentials and training, and peer reputation.

"U.S. News believes online learning is becoming integral to all types of education, including higher education, and that consumers are hungry for information related to online degrees," the organization's website said.

"For working adults with some college credit, completing a four-year degree online may be the most practical way to obtain the knowledge and credentials needed to boost their careers.

"The vast majority of students enrolled in these ranked programs have earned at least some college credit. Rather than first-time college students, they are more likely to be working professionals in their 20s to 40s looking to advance in or change their careers.

"Ultimately, the Best Online Programs rankings measure whether online degree programs have academic standards commensurate with quality brick-and-mortar programs, properly adapted toward the unique pedagogy of distance education."

The rankings for the Academy's sports bachelor's degree programs were based on a detailed review of the U.S. News 2018 rankings of all online bachelor's degree programs in the U.S. In that study, the Academy's programs ranked 99th among all online bachelor's degree programs in America, inclusive of all subject areas. ■



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