



BREAKING NEWS...

Our plenary speaker for the 4th Annual Social Work in Sports Symposium will be Dr. Richard Lapchick. To learn more please visit <https://business.ucf.edu/person/richard-lapchick/>.

New Members

Alex Diaz
Kelsey Morrison
S. Lavi Wilson
Kristina Faimon
Danielle Finke
Dana Sullivan
Luba Lowery

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ASWIS Group

A Letter from the President

Dear ASWIS Membership:

We hope that the end of the summer, the beginning of fall and football/soccer/volleyball season finds you well. Over the last month, several incidents have occurred that highlight the need for Sport Social Work. Whether it be the recent death of an Iowa State women's golfer, the sudden retirement of an NFL player during a game, the two incidents involving female tennis players at the US Open, or Nike's entrance into social justice, there are so many spaces for us to do our work.

Nonetheless, truth be told our organization is at a crossroad - there is one avenue where the opportunities to practice Sport Social Work are growing and sport organizations have realized our value - then there is a one way street where some of our members exist trying to get to the avenue on their own. To successfully navigate this crossroads it's so important that we continue to work as a team - meaning we work together, inspire each other, communicate with one another and hold each other accountable.

I am very excited for the fourth quarter of this year. With the approval of the Executive Team, I hope to declare October Sport Social Work Month. At the end of the year, I am prayerful that we can recognize a male and female athlete for their service in contributing to improve social work related issues nationally and internationally.

Nonetheless, we first have to successfully stage our 4th, yes 4th Annual Symposium. I believe that it is going to be incredible. Still, we can use your help identifying sponsors and spreading the word about the conference.

In closing, the email Dr. Moore and I sent out about the potential that ASWIS could cease operations is real - it's such a reality! Thankfully 20 members responded with offers to help, which means that about 180 remain on the sidelines. We need you, and by the number of ASWIS members who have recently secured jobs in the industry, you need ASWIS. So, if you can make some extra time we could use you during the fourth quarter of this year because we surely want to be around for some time to come.

Best

Emmett L. Gill, Jr.

Please check out our new web address and brand new website at www.aswis.org. A special thanks to Mary Claire Dance, Troy University, for her assistance in redesigning our website.



Maryland Football: A Crisis in Toxic Masculinity in College Athletics

We live in a society where we take two steps forward and immediately take five steps back. That is the case with the scandal involving the Maryland Football team. On June 13 of this year, 19 year old Jordan McNair died after being hospitalized for collapsing during a practice on May 29 when conditions were dangerously hot and toxic. His death has unleashed an investigation into the practices of the team's head coach DJ Durkin and strength and conditioning coach Rick Court. Evidently many players, current and former, have described how the coaches have created an environment that is the equivalent of hazing incidents on a college campus. The players would describe incidents such as a player having his plate of food knocked out of his hand, unhealthy eating habits, one player being forced to eat candy bars in front of his teammates in the weight room, and the coaches referring to their players in derogatory terms.

Constant ridicule, humiliation, and dehumanization of the players all occurred within the context of a very toxic definition of masculinity. Societal scripts that have been written traditionally defined manhood as being "tough", "strong", "aggressive", and "dominant." In addition, men are not allowed to express emotion other than anger or intimidation and are not allowed to show any vulnerabilities of any kind to prevent the risk of being referred to as "weak", "soft", "sissy", or much worse. These constructs of masculinity have had serious effects on the lives of men and boys as they are more likely to die by suicide as what happened with Tyler Helinski at Washington State University. They are more likely to die by substance abuse, more likely to commit a crime, and more likely to not go to counseling and therapy compared to their female counterparts.

This tragedy at Maryland is not an isolated incident. It is part of a pattern in which athletic programs have allowed for a culture of fear and intimidation that is based on living up to an unrealistic definition of masculinity to take over. We can look back at famous coaches such as Woody Hayes, Bobby Knight, Mike Rice, and others who were guilty of creating dangerous and toxic environments and ultimately paid the price in terms of their jobs. Someone should certainly lose their job with regard to the death of Jordan McNair. Frankly, the NCAA and other outside entities need to step in and issue new guidelines and reforms so that this doesn't happen again and ensure that consequences will be rendered if the program doesn't follow through. Furthermore, there needs to be a dramatic cultural and attitude change with regard to the behaviors of coaches and others in positions of authority over young male athletes to set a good example of what being a man should be and that manhood should be built on a holistic foundation of love, compassion, empathy, vulnerability, as well as strength, toughness, and courage that is not life threatening to the self or someone else. That means that it takes more strength to cry in front of your teammates and coaches. That means the courage in embracing each other and comforting each other without it being seen differently. Whatever happens next remains to be seen, but certainly the time make a change is now.

Written by: Zachary Draves

Check out our other new blog post
<https://www.naswis.org/blog>

"A Call to Action: Boycott the NFL" (Zachary Draves)

"Atlanta Strong: Remembering the Centennial Olympic Park Bombing" (Zachary Draves)

Committee Updates

- *Research Committee* - the committee added another 20 citations to the research center and oversaw the peer-review of 35 accepted proposals for the upcoming symposium.
- *Committee on College Sports* - the committee would like to welcome their new Co-Chair, Corinne Coia. The committee made updates to their current Sport Social Work Fact Sheet. The committee will meet on Friday, Sept 28 at 12pm EST for anyone interested in calling in.
- *Committee on Youth Sports* - the committee is hosting a t-shirt exchange at the upcoming symposium. More information to follow in the coming days.
- *Committee on Professional Sports* - the committee held a conference call to discuss ways to be more strategic in our work with current and professional athletes in all sports. The Committee also discussed promoting the ASWIS Sports Certificate to current and former professional athletes. Lastly, Anita Daniels and member Lauren Anderson will be developing a sponsorship offer to the NBRPA (pending Pro Sports Committee endorsement and E-Team approval). Anyone who has ideas, feel free to reach out to Anita at actualitiesltd@gmail.com.
- *Education Committee* - the committee is overseeing two cohorts enrolled in the Sport Social Work Certificate Program. This includes completing program evaluations and curriculum revisions. The committee will begin working on new ideas for CEU trainings and webinars. Feel free to share any topic ideas!

Introducing: Early Scholars Committee

ASWIS is thrilled to announce a brand new committee dedicated to early-career scholars. The committee is chaired by Tarkington Newman. Other founding members of this committee include: Rick Weaver, Lorin Mordecai, Jerry Reynolds, Kathryn Coxe, Victor Kidd, Kaitlin Okamoto, and Lindsey Sanders. This committee is inclusive of all early career scholars and other interested individuals, including doctoral-, masters-, and bachelor-level students, as well as junior faculty who are interested in and/or pursuing social work and sport scholarship.

The mission of this committee is to promote the advancement of scholarship that examines the intersectionality of social work and sport through connectivity and fellowship.

The committee has three primary objectives:

1. Provide a source of ongoing support for early career scholars who are engaged in scholarly activities (e.g., course work, dissertation, job market) that examine the intersectionality of social work and sport.
2. Maintain a depository of academic resources (e.g., articles, books, methodological expertise, grant opportunities).
3. Offer a medium for collaboration on scholarly research studies, manuscripts, and presentations.

To learn more about this committee please visit: <https://www.aswis.org/early-scholar>. You may also email Tarkington Newman at (Newman.531@buckeyemail.osu.edu).

Job Center Update

Be sure to check out our updated job center for current postings related to Sport Social Work. We strongly encourage our members to apply for these positions and further expand our visibility. You can access the job center at <https://www.naswis.org/job-center>.

Internships and Practicum

ASWIS is currently seeking new practicum and internship students for spring and fall of 2020. To learn more about these educational opportunities please visit <https://www.aswis.org/internships-and-practicums>. You may also contact Dr. Matt Moore (mattmoore@bsu.edu).



Sport Social Work Certificate Program

ASWIS is pleased to announce our fall cohort for the Sport Social Work Certificate program has eight students. We will also graduate three students from our program in the coming months. Applications are currently being accepted for spring 2019.

If you are interested in serving as a faculty member please contact Dr. Emmett Gill (socialworkersinsports@gmail.com).

Upcoming Events

[4th Annual Social Work in Sports Symposium](#)

To see the full schedule for the symposium please visit: <https://www.aswis.org/2018-conference-schedule>.

For registration and accommodations please visit <https://www.aswis.org/2018-conference-registration-travel>.

Membership Announcements

- Lorin Mordecai was offered a part-time position as an Academic Mentor for the UConn Student Athlete Success Program. She is providing academic support to at-risk athletes.
- Matt Moore was named the Head Women's Tennis Coach at Butler University (Big East Conference). To learn more visit <https://butlersports.com/news/2018/8/23/womens-tennis-matt-moore-named-interim-head-coach-for-butlerwtennis-program.aspx>.
- Millersville University is now offering a Masters in Social Work/Masters of Education in Sport Management.
- Betsy Cutler and the College Wellness Program launched the Collegiate Athlete Mental Health APP.
- Patrice Pelmore passed her LSW exam.
- The University of Michigan first EDGE Program led by Sara Driesenga and Kayla Douglas was a huge success. 40 girls from Metro Detroit participated in the camp on Michigan's campus that included social skills training, STEM, career development and sports. The team consisted of social workers, teachers, and student athletes.
- Warren Clark and Bill Vanderwill led a mini course on Sport Social Work at the University of Michigan.
- Brad Hambric accepted a Clinical Counselor position with the University of Georgia Department of Athletics.
- Jerry Reynolds (PhD student at LSU) was recently interviewed for the September edition of Acadiana Lifestyle magazine, a monthly publication in South Louisiana about contributors to youth sport burnout and proactive steps parents can take to maximize youth sport participation.
- Erin Starkey recently accepted a new position (to start mid-Oct) as the Manager of Health and Wellness Programs at CompPsych. She also completed her first Ironman Steelhead 70.3.

Member Spotlight



Kristie Baumchen, LMSW

My name is Kristie Baumchen and I am the Student-Athlete Wellness Coordinator at Kansas Athletics -The University of Kansas. As a life-long Kansan I am thrilled at the opportunity to blend together two of my favorite topics to talk about: Mental Health and KU Sports.

My position falls under the Sports Medicine Department, so I work closely with the Head Team Physician, Physician Assistant, and our Team Athletic Trainers to ensure that student-athletes receive appropriate mental health services and support. Some of my professional duties include:

yearly mental health screenings, meeting individually with student-athletes to assess their needs, and coordinating mental health referrals and follow up collaboration with outpatient providers (when appropriate). My role is new within Kansas Athletics (started July 2018) and I have been so fortunate at the warm welcome that I have received from student-athletes, staff members, coaches, and administration alike who understand and recognize the value of making sure that every student-athlete receives the care they need. It's going to be a great year of growth for me both personally and professionally and I'm looking forward to seeing all that we can do in promoting the importance of Mental Health and Wellness. Looking forward to connecting with others in Orlando this November. ROCK CHALK!

Strategic Planning

ASWIS will begin work on the 2019-2020 strategic plan. Please send any initial thoughts to socialworkinsports@gmail.com.

International Task Group

Under the leadership of Brandon St. Croix, ASWIS is working hard to grow their international presence. In the last two months, ASWIS welcomed new members from Canada, Croatia, and Germany. ASWIS is currently exploring possible international partners. If you are interested in helping with these efforts please let us know!

For more information please contact us at

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