



## Alliance Wide Call

Tuesday, August 18th from 12pm to 1pm EST

Guest Speaker: Brenda Tracy,  
Registered Nurse, Survivor, Activist

Please see the formal invitation sent to members for meeting information.

If you have ideas for future Alliance Wide speakers please let us know!

## New Members

Welcome to our new members: Kareem Rasheed Muhammad, Rachael Jankowsky, Jenny Tharpe-Smith, Gabriel Crenshaw, Victor Kidd, Mia Wolfrey, Devon Lewis-Buchanan, Joshua Mangin, Genna Shapior, Aaron Trumino, Cerrone Vaughn, Sydney Finke, Annie Flanagan, Tenessa Shepherd, Aaron Hutt, Angelica Sievers, Gerrett LaMartina, Argirios Gouriotis, Elana McGahey, Jesse O'Donnell, Sydney Harris, Travon Tillis, Manny Barocio, Andae' Perry, Francis Asprec, Fernando Alvarado, Shelbi White, Cladia Lopez-Matamoros, S. Lavia Wilson, and Lindsey Sanders

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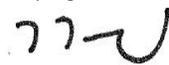
## A Letter from the President

Dear ASWIS Membership:

The COVID-19 pandemic remains a health and mental health crisis. The pandemic is also a crisis of social injustice, inequitably affecting vulnerable and marginalized populations (Council on Social Work Education, CSWE, 2020). We are so proud of our members who continue to maintain their value- and ethic-based commitment for the good of our athletic communities. Throughout the past months, our members continued their promise to demonstrate the advocacy, clinical, and educational skills necessary to help. Our members maintained their vow to grow the sport social work field. This was done through the creation of a COVID-19 [resource page](#) on our website, the development of a [telehealth provider network](#), hosting weekly interprofessional discussions (thank you Dr. Gill), providing consultation to various sport-based organizations, supporting the advocacy efforts of our members, etc. Our Alliance also worked with the Clinical/Counseling Sport Psychology Association to endorse a [mental health consensus statement](#) for collegiate athletics during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition to our efforts in supporting athletic communities through a public health crisis, our Alliance also responded with a strong stance towards the racial injustices that continue to mar our world populations. The Alliance continues to feel a deep sadness for the deaths of Mr. George Floyd, Ms. Breonna Taylor, and Mr. Ahmaud Arbery. These are three names that represent many others who had their lives cut tragically short, lives taken through the evil of injustice. Throughout the past months, our membership reminded the world how social workers can support those who are feeling the heavy weight of senseless acts. As an Alliance we released a [presidential address](#), shared individual advocacy efforts, had four members named to the NCAA Diverse Student-Athlete Mental Health and Well-being Task Force, and many signed letters of support (again, thank you Dr. Gill).

There is a beautiful quote from Leonardo da Vinci, "Iron rusts from disuse; water loses its purity from stagnation...even so does inaction sap the vigor of the mind." I am so proud to lead a group of individuals that does not let inaction define who they are. While our actions might not bring an end to a public health crisis or racial injustices, they certainly move us in a direction of hope, justice, and inclusiveness. I pray all of you are staying safe and healthy. Thank you for all you do for our Alliance.



Matt Moore, President

**Congratulations to our newly elected Executive Committee members. These individuals will start their terms on January 1, 2021.**

Ms. Anita Daniels - President

Dr. Jerry Reynolds - Vice-President

Dr. Victor Kidd - Member-at-Large

Ms. Stephanie Rosado - Student Member-at-Large



## The Revitalization of the Committee on Youth Sports and the Introduction of the Committee on Clinical Practice and Committee on International Sport Social Work.

A primary objective of the Alliance's strategic plan is promoting sport social work in youth settings. In the spring of 2020, Dr. Vanessa Robinson-Dooley restarted our commitment to these efforts. Dr. Robinson-Dooley was able to identify 19 members from the Alliance to help in leading this charge. The initial months were spent trying to determine what the committee wanted to do as a group, and ensuring those actions aligned with the stated purpose of the committee on the bylaws. Stemming from these initial meetings, the committee identified subcommittees to further focus their efforts. This includes a subcommittee focused on webinars and education in youth sports (Chair: Molly O'Shea), youth sports (Chair: Barb Anthony), and high school sports (Chair: Janae Haeney). Subcommittees are open to all members who feel a calling to assist. If you are interested in these efforts please contact Dr. Vanessa Robinson-Dooley at [vrobin11@kennesaw.edu](mailto:vrobin11@kennesaw.edu).

In addition to the excellent work of our Committee on Youth Sports, ASWIS launched two new initiatives in the past months. This was the creation of the Committee on Clinical Practice (Chair: Anita Daniels) and the Committee on International Sport Social Work (Chair Dr. Stacy Kratz).

The Committee on Clinical Practice will develop a working agenda for how ASWIS can better serve vulnerable athletes through clinical social work practice. This agenda will help the Alliance achieve multiple phases of its strategic plan. The committee will support Alliance members in their efforts to earn a clinical license. The committee will oversee the vetting process for a list of clinical social workers ASWIS can provide to sport-based organizations. This includes vetting individuals for the USOPC Mental Health Registry. The committee will educate organizations on the roles and responsibilities of clinical social workers.

The committee will develop an annual webinar or alternate educational experience on clinical sport social work. If possible, this educational outreach will offer continuing education units. The committee will utilize the Alliance regional structure to learn more about community-based and professional organizations seeking to hire clinical social workers to promote the functioning of athletes. If you are interested in this committee please contact Anita Daniels at [actualitiesltd@gmail.com](mailto:actualitiesltd@gmail.com).

The Committee on International Social Work recognizes sport social work has no borders. The committee will develop a working agenda for how ASWIS can further understand, serve, and collaborate with international organizations serving athletes and the communities where they live around the world. This agenda will promote the ASWIS strategic plan. The committee will educate ASWIS members, as well as global sport organizations, on the roles and responsibilities of sport social workers in a global context, and the global opportunities to bring the mission and vision of the social work profession into global arenas addressing sport for development, peace, and social justice. The committee will develop an annual webinar or alternate educational experience on International Sport Social Work. If possible, this educational outreach will offer continuing education units. The committee will utilize the Alliance regional structure to learn more about and positively impact community-based and professional organizations globally who are seeking to engage sport social work interns, and hire sport social workers. If you are interested in this committee please contact Dr. Stacy Kratz at [skratz@usc.edu](mailto:skratz@usc.edu).

## ASWIS Blog Posts

The Alliance released nine new blog posts in the last two months. There are several more slated for release in the coming days. This is part of a series of blogs written by our Sport Social Work Certificate Program students. These are exceptional pieces. Check them out [HERE](#).

## Committee Updates

- *Education Committee* - congratulations to Brandon Ousley and Darcel Dillard-Suite on graduating from the Sport Social Work Certificate Program. The committee is also excited to announce 29 new students will join the program this fall. This includes students from the United States, Canada, Croatia, India, and Australia.
- *Committee on College Sports* - the committee is developing a Life After Sports project in which ASWIS members who were former student-athletes will provide career advice to current student-athletes. We will be emailing the listserve shortly for volunteers and will follow up individually with a short list of questions. Responses will be compiled into an electronic document to be featured on the ASWIS website. If you are interested in helping with this project or volunteer to be interviewed, please contact Dr. Lorin Tredinnick at [lnmordec@gmail.com](mailto:lnmordec@gmail.com).
- *Committee on Professional Sports* - the committee is collaborating with the Education Committee to develop a series of classes led by sport social workers working in the three major professional sports leagues.
- *Early Scholars Committee* - the name of the Early Scholars Committee will be formally changed to the Research Committee. We hope that by updating the name of our committee, we will enhance our inclusive efforts to include all ASWIS members interested in collaborating in research-based initiatives. Currently, members of the committee are studying issues related to LGBTQ+ athletic climates in collegiate athletics, barriers to reporting sexual violence among college students involved in sport and recreation, and student-athlete wellbeing in the time of COVID-19. Additionally, members are engaged in ongoing research related to identifying the social workers who use and/or work in sport, understanding the sport systems and settings where social workers are currently practicing, and examining the education and training needed for social workers who are interested in working in sport. If you are interested in engaging in scholarship related to the intersection of social work practice and the arena of sport, please contact Dr. Tarkington J. Newman at [tarkington.newman@unh.edu](mailto:tarkington.newman@unh.edu).

## She had Wings On

(By: Jade Patterson)

Suicide tends to be a topic that gets pushed under the rug, but when it's your daughter, your best friend, your college roommate, your teammate, or your sister, you think differently. Madison Holleran was all of these things. Did she go through any significant trauma or experience anything different than any other college athlete? No. But does she hold her own story? Absolutely.

Madison Holleran, 19-year-old from New Jersey excelled in playing soccer and running track at her local high school of Northern Highlands Regional. She initially committed to a scholarship at LeHigh to play soccer until her 800m time dropped from 2:20 to 2:13. Her phone lines began receiving calls from Ivy League schools. Madison then fell in love with the University of Pennsylvania where she attended Fall of 2013 (Gretschel, 2017).

Often times having difficulty with adjustments in life, is viewed as a typical response to stress and change. Hence why we have 'adjustment disorders.' However, major adjustments coupled with enhanced stress and a 'perfectionist' attitude among collegiate athletes can look differently or go completely unnoticed. Madison was known as a star athlete at her high school and had helped take her soccer team to win two national titles.

She quickly realized her place at Penn when she found herself at the bottom of her competition and began struggling to keep up with her studies. She was also expected to run cross country, of which she had never done prior. And although Madison's stress and frustration were elevating, her social media accounts continued to display the contrary. It's called, "Penn Face" when appearing "effortlessly perfect," (Lozada, 2017).

Being a Millennial myself, I have lived a life both without smart phones and social media, but also was here for the origination of them. I can understand the prevalence of social media among young lives and the impact it can easily have on mindset, body image, and feeling the need to appear 'perfect' through only displaying a highlight reel. Individuals born after the mid-90's, or Generation Z, are much more vulnerable to developing depression and completing suicide. "All screen activities are linked to less happiness, and all non-screen activities are linked to more happiness... if you were going to give advice for a happy adolescence... it would be straightforward: Put down the phone, turn off the laptop and do something — anything — that does not involve a screen," (Schaefer Riley, 2017).

There is a lot of pressure being a collegiate athlete. Not only pressure to perform constantly, and maintaining heavy lifting and workout demands, but also pressure coming from educators, class work, nutrition balance, family, peers, teammates, coaches, and fans.

It was reported there were no relationship issues, drug issues, nor was there any family mental health background, but within the last few weeks there were noticeable changes. Madison had shared with her parents that she was unhappy while over Christmas break that winter of 2014, her freshman year.

She reported she was feeling suicidal and did begin seeing a therapist, her dad was even present for one session. He didn't believe she was ready to return, in fact, her parents begged her not to and suggested that she transfer or even just stay home. Because she was struggling with her studies. She insisted on returning. Madison's peers even reported seeing no warning signs just hours before the act (Daily Mail Reporter, 2014).

According to Reardon and colleagues (2019, p. 671), "Different sports are associated with different risks for depressive symptoms and Major Depressive Disorder (MDD)... Among North American athletes, track and field athletes had the highest rates of MDD compared with those in other collegiate sports. Depressive symptoms may be more prevalent in individual sport athletes compared with team sport athletes." Madison was not even diagnosed with depression yet and I wonder if it was due to lack of reporting or masking symptoms. The last therapy session Madison attended with her dad she was asked to promise that she would reach out if she was having suicidal thoughts and that she would not follow through with the act. Madison's dad was not convinced leaving the office that day.

"Depressive symptoms and MDD may result in decreased performance, adverse effects on personal life or an exit from sport. MDD is also highly associated with suicide and suicidal ideation," (Reardon et al., 2019, p. 672). Friends of Madison confided in her and some of her best friends continued to ask her what was going on. She would think 'if she quit, wasn't she just a failure?' After returning to Penn in January of 2015, Madison had written a reminder in her phone quoting, "new mindset; new everything; I can do this; I will do this; you CHOOSE your fate; willing to give it another chance; DON'T LOOK BACK; LOOK FORWARD; SETBACKS ARE NEEDED TO GET STRONGER" (Lozada, 2017). Soon after, Madison wrote a letter and met with her head coach to quit the team (Fagan, 2015).

To continue reading the remainder of this story please click [HERE](#).

If you or someone you know is thinking about suicide please call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255 for free and confidential support.



The Alliance is currently working on the final schedule for this year's 6th Annual Social Work in Sports Symposium. This event will take place virtually on October 1st and 2nd. The final slate of presentations will cover four overarching themes (addressing the Social Work Grand Challenges through sport, sport for social justice and change, #MoreThanAnAthlete, and sport and COVID-19) and showcase several presentation formats (e.g., featured presentations, keynote addresses, paired presentations, and themed panel discussions). It is shaping up to be a memorable educational and networking experience.

You can now register for the symposium by clicking on this [REGISTRATION LINK](#).



### SAVE THE DATE

6th Annual Social Work in Sports Symposium

October 1st and 2nd

Virtual Conference

Access Call for Proposals [HERE](#).

## Membership Announcements

**Emily Klueh** was named as a mental health officer for the paralympic games. This is the first time this role has been developed by the USOPC. Learn more [HERE](#).

**Dr. Lorin Mordecai Tredinnick** received the 2020 N4A Research Award for her dissertation, "Student-Athlete Barriers to Bystander Intentions: Assessing Gender Role Conflict and Opportunities to Respond to Post-Sexual Assault."

**Dr. Tarkington J. Newman** recently had two articles accepted for publication. The first article titled "Process Evaluation of a Sport-Based Positive Youth Development Program for Socially Vulnerable Youth" will appear in the *Journal of Youth Development*. The second article titled "The Management and Development of Sport Team Captains as Human Capital Resources: Perspectives from Collegiate Coaches" will appear in the *International Journal of Sport Management*.

**Neha Uberoi** graduated from Columbia University with her MSW and then passed her LMSW exam and did all that with a toddler and newborn in tow! She also works as a consultant for AthletesSoul, an organization that supports and serves the interests of athletes as they transition out of sports and raise awareness about the challenges of athletic retirement. She's also serving her second term on the USTA Board of Directors where they are making efforts to become an organization that truly embodies diversity, inclusion and fights anti-black racism.

LiFEsports was chosen as 2020 Project Play Champion. Read the [PRESS RELEASE](#).

**Dr. Dawn Anderson-Butcher** received the Community Engaged Scholar Award at Ohio State. See the [AWARD ANNOUNCEMENT](#).

**Marlene Holmes** hosted Athletic Identity Workshops through her company called The BFCA Experience LLC. Future workshops will focus on the emotional and psychological journey and experience of Black female athletes. Learn more [HERE](#). She will also be hosting a mental wellness and meditation workshop for a non-profit mental health program in San Francisco (virtually). Finally, she hosted a workshop for cross country female runners, which focused on the psychological impact of COVID-19 and athletic identity.

**Charlotte Dean** was a guest speaker on a podcast by the name of "The Bench with Rob and Jas" on Apple and Spotify. The episode was a casual conversation about student-athlete mental health.

**Dr. Matt Moore** accepted the Head Men's and Women's Tennis Coach position at Anderson University. You can read the press release [HERE](#).

# Member Spotlight



Devon Lewis-Buchanan, MSW, is the Alumni Relations Director for the Las Vegas Raiders. His role with the team is assessing and coordinating services and benefits for the Raiders alumni and their families.

Devon is a former collegiate athlete at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, where he was a two-year starter and team captain for the Ragin' Cajuns. As an NFL-prospect, Devon was granted an opportunity to try-out for the then Oakland Raiders at a 2012 Rookie Camp. Subsequently, he was not granted a contract with the team and was forced to ask himself, "What's Next?"

Wrestling with athletic identity foreclosure, Devon credits social work for guiding his path out of uncertainty. He would begin working with youth and families involved in the child welfare system and developed a passion for service through empowerment. In 2017, Devon founded a non-profit organization, Inspire Youths Services, Inc. in West Palm Beach, FL, to create avenues to mental health access for marginalized youth and families.

Realizing the need for more Black male clinicians, Devon would simultaneously enroll at Barry University, following in the path of his mother to obtain his MSW at Barry's School of Social Work. Devon was named the NASW-FL 2020 Social Work Student of the Year for his time attending Barry University.

Devon is a loving father to his son Samson, who is a member of the Autism Spectrum community. His passion for social work and sports has lead Devon to create Inspire U, LLC, a consulting agency which aims to tackle stigma and reshape the culture around mental health and athletics.

## Membership Announcements (continued)

**Shelbi White's** The Athlete Stand Up Challenge has now evolved into the Athlete Stand Up Interview Series, which serves to amplify the voices of individuals working inside and/or outside the athletic community. As the founder, Shelbi hosts weekly Instagram Live segments that raise awareness to the physical, emotional, and mental challenges current and former student-athletes face. Athlete Stand Up stands boldly behind the motto that, "There is VALUE when voices are HEARD". To be considered as a guest feature in the next segment of Athlete Stand Up Interview Series, please complete this [QUESTIONNAIRE](#).

**Carlisa Harris** initiated the first sport social work internship at Laney Community College in Oakland California. She worked with their football, women's basketball, swim/water polo, and track and field teams. The internship was for the Sport Social Work Certificate Program. She will also be featured on the upcoming Netflix documentary Last Chance U. This upcoming year will be her last year with the school and she will continue her journey by sitting for her LCSW.

**Betsy Cutler** had an article published on student-athlete perceptions of stress, support seeking, and mental health services. You can read the article [HERE](#). She created a Sport Literary Team as a spin-off of MVP Kids Media Group, where the team is writing books for elementary aged youth using sport scenarios to build mental health resiliency. She also partnered with Athletes Soul, to create and collect mental health data from professional and elite Athletes.

**For more information please contact us at**

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