Welcome to the spring edition of the AAKPE newsletter. I hope it has been a successful academic year for you by whatever metric you prefer. I wanted to let you know that over the past year many of our fellows have been hard at work on AAKPE business to serve you and our field.

For example, Wanean Spirduso revved up the Graduate Program Review Committee by hosting a meeting in Dallas last February. Committee members reviewed existing materials, created a timeline for activities in the months ahead, and identified action items and assignments. A more detailed update and discussion of the process will occur during the full-membership Business Meeting in San Diego. Note that the actual data collection and analyses for the Graduate Program Review will occur in 2010.

Scott Kretchmar had a banner year as our historian. He established a living history of conversations with some of our most senior leaders in the field of Kinesiology. With the support of Kim Scott and human Kinetics, he interviewed Walter Fraleigh, John Lucas, and Earle Zeigler, all of whom can be listened to by visiting the Academy Web site at http://www.aakpe.org/ShowArticle.cfm?id=84. In addition, a two-part interview with Franklin Henry, conducted by Penny McCullagh and Steve Wallace, is also available for the public to share. Thanks to all involved for developing this important contribution to our historical database. And please join me in welcoming David Wiggins to his new role; he has graciously agreed to pick up where Scott left off as our historian and to continue this project. If you have suggestions of persons to be interviewed in this manner, please share them with David.

Our conference this year is shaping up to be both interesting and filled with lively conversation, in the able hands of our past-president, John Dunn. We will be focusing on “Kinesiology within the Academy: Thriving or Surviving.” John’s chosen topic could not be timelier, given the economic events of the past six to twelve months. We will be in a fabulous location for our meetings as well: the Catamaran Resort in San Diego. Please join us. Start planning as well for October 7-10, 2010, when we will reconvene in historic Williamsburg, Virginia, for next year’s Academy meeting.

Thanks to Roberta Rikli, our president-elect, for working with her Nominations Committee to identify a truly impressive set of Academy members willing to be nominated to serve as members of the Executive Committee of the AAKPE. Our sincere appreciation goes to each of these people for their willingness to serve—and congratulations to our new officers. Please see President-Elect Rikli’s column on page 3 for more specific details. Thanks also to Jay Graves and the Membership Committee for identifying an outstanding slate of candidates for fellow status in the AAKPE. Congratulations to all of the new fellows-elect; names of new fellows are highlighted on page 3. Please remember to follow Academy protocol and contact new members, if time permits, to welcome them into the Academy, in advance of our meeting in October.

It is my pleasure to announce that Dr. Daniel Landers has been selected to receive the Hetherington Award this year. Dan’s research publications have been impressive not only for their number and placement but more importantly for the impact they have had on the field of sport psychology; his reviews and data-based research helped initiate psychophysiology as a sub-specialty in sport psychology. Dan’s legacy in Kinesiology, through his publications, his leadership, and his many strong graduate students who have continued and developed their own niches in sport psychology today, provides a major contribution to our core. Congratulations, Dan!

You will note when you see the program for this year’s conference that Bob Rikli and her Nominations Committee have done a great job of creating a very impressive slate of candidates to fill the open positions on the Executive Committee. Please take the time to read about them and to make your decisions about who you would like to serve on this body for the upcoming year. The details are included in this newsletter and again in President-Elect Roberta Rikli’s column.

Please take the time to read this newsletter. I am pleased to share with you what we are doing to serve our field. I hope you have a productive and rewarding year ahead.
conference that we have begun encouraging sponsors to support the Academy meeting via paid advertisements within the hard copy of the program. Given the need to continue to control costs and the difficulty of our current economic climate, the Executive Committee thought this was a reasonable next step. We hope you will agree and that you will consider the products of these contributors when making future purchases.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me or other members of the Executive Committee if you have suggestions, questions, or comments concerning Academy business. We truly appreciate your ideas and your support. Best wishes for a wonderful summer!

Beverly D. Ulrich
AAKPE President

President’s Message, continued

Greetings! The primary duty of the past-president of the Academy is to develop the annual program. As shared at our conference in the fall, the theme of this year’s program is “Kinesiology within the Academy: Thriving or Surviving.” Given the recent stunning and alarming downturn in the economy, the conference theme seems particularly appropriate and timely. Most states are struggling with huge budget deficits and are responding by budget reductions. Higher education has been impacted with fewer funds available to support programs and students. Some universities have responded by eliminating, merging, or downsizing programs. Concerns have been expressed about Kinesiology and the field’s importance in a time of economic and social upheaval.

With this backdrop, I am pleased to report that we are developing a program that will be timely and of interest to all members of the Academy. Dr. Timothy White, Fellow #344, and president of the University of California, Riverside, will be our spokesperson for the opening session on Thursday night. Dr. White, as a distinguished member of the Academy, is well positioned to provide context for the current challenges confronting higher education. Other presenters will focus on the changing demographics of the United States and how well (or not) we are responding to the needs of society. Sessions will also focus on what we might do to shore up Kinesiology and the perceptions of other colleagues as to the value of our field and our graduates. Future directions for our undergraduate, graduate, and research programs will also be highlighted and discussed. The role of assessment and accreditation standards in light of the public call for greater accountability and will also be a topic of interest.

There will be a slight shift in our program this year with the goal of encouraging more audience participation, dialogue, and discussion. I am convinced that participants will be rewarded with a rich and stimulating program. I look forward to seeing you in San Diego, October 1-3, 2009!

John M. Dunn
Past President

Past-President’s Message

“Concerns have been expressed about Kinesiology and the field’s importance in a time of economic and social upheaval.”
President-Elect’s Message

One of the major responsibilities of the president-elect is to chair the Nomination and Election Committee. This year, I was fortunate to be able to work with an excellent committee consisting of Jane Kent-Braun, Wojtek Chodzko-Zajko, Kevin Guskiewicz, and Emily Haymes. Together we processed numerous nominations for the offices of president-elect and member-at-large and came up with an exceptionally strong slate of candidates. I want to thank Phil Martin and Maureen Weiss for being willing to run for president-elect, and Debbie Rose and Tom Templin for being candidates for member-at-large. The Academy is fortunate to have such talented and capable individuals who are willing to serve in this capacity. The election of officers was conducted electronically, with 79 members voting, resulting in Maureen Weiss being selected as president-elect and Tom Templin as member-at-large.

On behalf of the Academy, I again want to thank members of the Nomination and Election Committee for their good work this year and encourage all AAKPE members to consider additional ways of serving this important organization. I look forward to seeing you in San Diego in October at the exciting Catamaran Resort. I know that Past-President John Dunn is planning an outstanding program on a topic of great interest to us all: the strength of Kinesiology in higher education.

Roberta Rikli
President-Elect

Results of 2009 - 2010 Officer Elections

President-Elect
Maureen Weiss (University of Minnesota)

Member-at-Large
Thomas Templin (Purdue University)

Announcement of New Fellows to be Inducted at the 2009 Meeting

Active Fellows
John H. Challis
   Penn State University
Michael W. Metzler
   Georgia State University
Susan G. Zieff
   San Francisco State University

International Fellow
Ian M. Franks
   University of British Columbia
Neville Owen
   University of Queensland

Announcement of Hetherington Award Winner
Daniel Landers will be presented the award at the 2009 annual meeting.
Plan Now to Attend

California, here we come! The AAKPE 2009 Annual Meeting is being held in sunny San Diego, California, October 1-3, at the Catamaran Resort and Spa.

The Catamaran is a luxury destination for relaxation, restoration, and aquatic activity. The expansive resort grounds feature a wide variety of exotic plants and birds, along with a secluded sandy beach for guests. The Catamaran is located on Mission Bay, the West Coast’s largest aquatic, man-made park, and offers an abundance of activity opportunities.

Registration is now open for room reservations. The AAKPE room rate will be $169 a night for single or double occupancy. Cancellation is available up to 72 hours prior to arrival. The hotel has set up a personalized Web site for our organization. It can be accessed at the AAKPE Web site, http://www.aakpe.org. In the Quick Clicks box, click on Annual Meeting Information.

Deadlines and Details

The registration deadline for this year’s meeting is Friday, August 28. It is important that members get their registration forms and fees into the AAKPE Business office by this date. Hotel reservations also need to be made by August 28 to ensure room availability at the Catamaran. After the deadline, requests for accommodations will be handled on a space- and rate-available basis.

Emeritus fellows and new fellows should be sure to sign up for the annual Executive Committee Breakfast given in their honor. It is a great way to get acquainted with fellow Academy members and the Executive Committee in a small, casual setting. All members are encouraged to attend the banquet and induction ceremony on Saturday evening.

More meeting details will be posted on the AAKPE Web site as they become available. Look for your meeting packets in the mail later this summer.

Program Theme: Kinesiology within the Academy: Thriving or Surviving

The United States, along with most of the world, is experiencing an unprecedented economic challenge. Every sector of society—from business to education—is feeling the effect of an uncertain future in which the challenges seem to far exceed opportunity. In almost every state the impact on higher education has been significant with substantive budget reductions, program closures, reductions in staff and faculty, and increasing concerns that resources are insufficient to maintain infrastructure or to sustain curricular offerings.

Given this context, it seems essential that the Academy and its members pause and reflect on the future of Kinesiology as a discipline and the many professions supported by our work. The theme of the AAKPE 2009 Conference, “Kinesiology within the Academy: Thriving or Surviving” not only seems timely, but essential as we chart our path and direction for the future. Presenters will offer perspectives on how we can best address many of the issues confronting our field, such as finances and budgets, changing demographics, assessment and accreditation, selecting and mentoring faculty, and how best to survive during these unusual times. Our program will begin on Thursday evening, October 1, with an opening address from Dr. Timothy White, Fellow #344. Dr. White is president of the University of California, Riverside, and well positioned to offer valuable insights and to kick off a valuable and insightful meeting.

The Catamaran is located on Mission Bay, the West Coast’s largest aquatic, man-made park, and offers an abundance of activity opportunities.
For years the Academy has talked about conducting interviews with some of our more senior leaders, thereby providing an important archive for research and other purposes. At the request of President Ulrich, I agreed to get the ball rolling by conducting three interviews, one each with Warren Fraleigh, John Lucas, and Earle Zeigler. It turned out to be a delightful experience, and our discussions took some unexpected twists and turns.

While I attempted to use a similar format with all three, I gave each one considerable license to talk about what he felt was important. For example, I asked all three individuals who most influenced their careers. I also asked them for their assessment of the current state of Kinesiology and recommendations for the future. As one might expect, the responses were varied, sometimes irreverent, thoughtful, insightful—just as one would expect from three such individuals.

These interviews were recorded by Human Kinetics and are available to members of the Academy and other researchers at http://www.aakpe.org/ShowArticle.cfm?id=84. I hope that some of you will take advantage of this opportunity to listen to reflections by three of our esteemed leaders.

I hope too that someone will take up the “interview torch” and run with it. The sampling of these three particular individuals is related to my own geography (John Lucas is here at Penn State) and my personal interests (both Warren Fraleigh and Earle Zeigler were early leaders in philosophy). We need interviews to be conducted on others. Perhaps we can organize such an effort at our next meeting.

Scott Kretchmar, Penn State University

“I hope that some of you will take advantage of this opportunity to listen to reflections by three of our esteemed leaders.”
These figures are absolutely alarming, both in their magnitude and in the painful decisions they present to lawmakers. The easy budget fixes are gone, only hard and unpopular options remain. … But as bad as they are, these gaps could pale in comparison with what looms ahead.

The speaker was the program director of the National Conference of State Legislatures, whose ominous comments about state budgets in February have taken on an even bleaker complexion in the ensuing months. The decrepit economy is beginning to impact higher education—especially public institutions—and if pundits are to be believed, this may be merely the tip of the iceberg. Consultants and experts in strategic planning have been in hot demand as institutions struggle to find their way out of what can legitimately be described as a mess. Yet nobody, including strategic planners and administrators who were around for the economic downturns of the early 1980s, has experience dealing with an economic contraction of this magnitude. For public universities, the funding problem has been compounded further by the prospect of increased enrollments.

At a recent meeting of the Association of American Colleges and Universities, Peter Facione, a strategic consultant with the higher education consulting firm Stratus-Heery International Inc., proposed a laundry list of tactics to college and university presidents: “Be selective in deciding where to cut; avoid across the board cuts.” This isn’t time for democratic action; consult but don’t vote. “Suspend or close all nonprofessional master’s programs and all doctoral programs that are not your signature programs or not ranked among the top 50 in the nation.” Rather than eliminating positions, opt first to reduce salaries or institute furloughs for staff and faculty. Freeze salaries, halve the size of committees. Do not assign load credit for any courses with fewer than a certain number of students enrolled. (“If that number was once 8 or 10, move it to 15.”) Eliminate mid-level administrative positions and shift tenured faculty with light loads to fill the vacancies.

Facione also suggested that every administrator with a master’s or doctoral degree be assigned one course, something already planned at University of North Carolina at Greensboro, which faces a possible 7% cut in state funding, which may translate into 59 lost faculty positions (and twice that many staff) and the elimination of 275 class sections. Prime mover of the plan to engage deans in classroom teaching was provost David Perrin, a member of the Board of Directors of AKA. Perrin told reporters: “In an environment where we’re asking our faculty to step up and teach more sections and larger classes, I thought we should be willing to lend a hand ourselves.”

Impact on Departments

A quick sampling of department heads across the country suggests that the budget crunch has severely impacted some departments while others have been left unscathed, a critical variable being the relative health of state budgets. Texas is a good place to be working in a kinesiology department; so is Wyoming. “So far, we have been very blessed in that we have had minimal effects of the economy,” reports Rick Krieder at Texas A&M University. “We are continuing to grow and are at all-time highs in students (about 2,200). The only effect I have seen is that some plans for university initiatives (e.g., new programs, building) have been deferred until the new state budget is finalized.”

A similar report comes from Mark Byra at University of Wyoming. “To this point in time, there has been no impact in terms of positions, salary, and budgets. However, the university—with input from faculty, unit chairs/directors, and college deans—is in the process of putting together a budget planning white paper to address the Wyoming governor’s request of all state agencies to develop budget proposals for 5% and 10% reductions in state-funded budgets for FY 2010 and beyond. It is still too early to determine the impact on the Division of Kinesiology and Health.”

A drastically different picture emerges in departments where state budgets teeter on the brink. “Our institution has been hit hard by the current economic challenge,” says Carl Maresh at University of Connecticut. “The administration has tried to address shrinking state support. How this compares to other institutions in other states is hard to tell, but certainly this is the most dramatic economic challenge I have seen during my 24 years at Connecticut. Perhaps the most frustrating aspect is that high performance expectations must contend with severe budget reductions.” To some extent,
Maresh’s department has been able to offset deficits with discretionary grant funds. “Without such funds there would be no way to adequately meet these challenges nor would there be opportunities for growth.”

**Grant Money to the Rescue**

Joe Starnes also reported that grant money has been a salvation for his department at UNCG. “We are one of five departments in the School of Health and Human Performance. For the 2008-09 year, the School of Health and Human Performance has experienced cuts amounting to about $350,000. Fortunately, the School has been able to take these cuts without cutting funds to its five departments. A big reason for this is that the School had a considerable amount of funds from grant indirect costs and faculty buyouts from grants, which were generated by the departments. Thus, grant funding has been the saving grace for our department this year.”

Grant money is also helping at University of Florida. Says Chair of Kinesiology Michael Delp: “At UF last year, each college budget was reduced by 10%. The effect of this on the department was that the state-funded portion of the departmental operating budget was reduced by 50%. As a result, the department had to fund things like faculty and graduate student travel, and AKA membership fee, from indirect cost returns and salary saving generated from research grants. The cut also resulted in us having to eliminate one adjunct professor position. Thus, the net effect was that we as a department had to trim back some of our course offerings and reduce our ability to invest in our faculty’s research efforts.”

Delp expects another 10% cut to be levied next year, which, if it happens, will probably result in the closing of a staff-faculty exercise facility that the College of Health and Human Performance has historically operated.

**Effects at Private Colleges**

So far, private colleges seem to be faring better than public institutions, although there is a threat that the faltering economy might eventually direct more students to public universities and away from private colleges. Bobby Epling, chair of kinesiology at Reinhardt College in Georgia, reports that no serious budget restrictions have been imposed there, but there is some concern that the economy may affect enrollment in the fall.

At Meredith College in North Carolina, Chair Melinda Campbell says, “The crunch is real. While our overall financial picture is solid, our upcoming budget proposal includes a shift to provide more funding for student financial assistance, holding tuition increases to 4%, a reduction in equipment and travel budgets except for student recruitment and athletics. We also have board of trustee mandates to increase our contingency funds and our reserve funds, which automatically builds in a large sum for next year’s budget. The proposal includes a reduction in equipment and travel budgets, except for travel for student recruitment (admissions) and athletics travel. Unfortunately for most of us, a reduction in the College’s retirement contribution has been proposed. Lapsed salaries plan to accrue centrally rather than allow divisions to spend those funds.” Says Campbell, “I expect adjunct positions will be lost, but no full-time positions are in jeopardy. It’s hard to plan for the future and to create important visions for our programs in light of economic woes.”

**Potential Problems for Graduate Programs**

Few prognosticators forecast that the economy will recover any time soon, and when it does arrive, it is likely that university budgets will be “lagging indicators.” Until then, departments of all disciplines will likely be forced to pare down their programs and rethink priorities. Thankfully, enrollment in undergraduate kinesiology programs is at or near record levels for most departments. Graduate programs, however, may face a more severe test. If universities resort to Facione’s recommendation to scuttle all but the very best graduate programs, kinesiology departments may find themselves in a fierce struggle for survival.

“When budget reductions are double digit,” says Facione, “there is no better time to be strategic.” In this case, the best defense may be a strong offense. In the coming weeks and months it will be critical for departments to undertake strategic planning by gathering data to support their relative and comparative advantages, mindful that the tactics recommended by Facione may be thrust upon them by their administrators. (Member departments are reminded that AKA offers a strategic planning service at www.americankinesiology.org.)

Data from an AKA departmental survey that may prove useful in the negotiations will soon be available to member departments. It is encouraging that, despite financial hard times, departments continue to invest in AKA, and for good reason. If ever there was a time when college and university departments can benefit from uniting behind one organizational banner as a way of preserving and advancing the cause of their discipline and departments, this most certainly is it.

**Sources:**


Highlights for AAKPE Fellows at UMass Amherst

Jane Kent-Braun delivered a president’s lecture at the 2009 ACSM Annual Meeting in Seattle in May. The title of her presentation was “Skeletal Muscle Physiology in Vivo: Aging Comes of Age!” In other news, Kent-Braun received a four-year, $1.5 million grant (RO1) from NIH called “Skeletal Muscle Fatigue in Older Adults.”

Patty Freedson received a Citation Award at the 2009 ACSM Annual Meeting in Seattle. The Citation Award is the ACSM’s second highest award for contributions to sports medicine and exercise science.

AAHPERD Honors Charles B. Corbin with its Highest Award

Charles B. Corbin, professor emeritus in the Department of Exercise and Wellness at Arizona State University, was recently honored by the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (AAHPERD) with the Luther Halsey Gulick Medal, the organization’s highest honor in recognition of long and distinguished service to the health, physical education, recreation, and dance professions. Presented on April 2, 2009, at the Alliance’s national convention in Tampa, Florida, Corbin was recognized for his leadership, dedication, and distinguished career in physical education.

A lifetime member of AAHPERD, Corbin has provided more than 40 years of service to this organization. He has presented keynote addresses at more than 40 state AHPERD conventions and has made major addresses in more than 15 different countries. He is past president and fellow of the American Academy of Kinesiology and Physical Education and fellow of the American College of Sports Medicine.

Thank You

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