NAK Fellows Have Been Busy Working for NAK

By Barbara Ainsworth, NAK President

It’s been nine months since our last annual meeting in Colorado Springs and only three months until we meet again in Austin, Texas, September 11 to 13. Indeed, I am looking forward to the exciting meeting organized by past president Phil Martin. An added highlight will be a tour of the H.J. Lutcher Stark Center for Physical Culture and Sports. According to the Center’s website (www.starkcenter.org), “Physical culture is a term used to describe the various activities people have employed over the centuries to strengthen their bodies, enhance their physiques, increase their endurance, enhance their health, fight against aging, and become better athletes.” Isn’t this what we do in kinesiology? My first exposure to the term physical culture was in 1976 in a used bookstore in St. Cloud, Minnesota. While browsing the holdings, I came across a book titled Physical Culture. Published in the 1890s, it was a collection of Victorian women posing in various exercise positions. Each exercise included a description of the health-enhancing nature of the pose. The images reminded me of Isadora Duncan, often regarded as the founder of modern dance when she adopted a free-flowing style of movement uncharacteristic of ballet. Of course, the Stark Center includes much more than images of early 20th-century poses. Listed on the website are collections of historical photos of sporting moments and persons. Those of us attending the 2014 annual meeting will be treated to a walk-through of our personal history of physical culture.

NAK fellows have been busy in the past months bringing projects along on schedule. Here are a few of the highlights.

Doctoral program review: Bev Ulrich and her committee are making great strides...
toward distributing materials for the new doctoral program review. We hope to have more participants in the doctoral program in our third review so every doctoral program under review can truly assess their standing compared with other programs in the United States. I send many thanks to Bev and her committee.

Physical activity–promoting colleges and universities: Kathy Janz, Dave Bassett, and the committee are nearing completion of data collection of cataloging the physical activity assets for colleges and universities that offer kinesiology programs. This program was Patty Freedson’s initiative as NAK president and included committee members from ACSM and AKA. This summer, colleagues and I in my School of Nutrition and Health Promotion will develop a scoring algorithm to rank the programs. The goal is to present the results at the 2014 meeting in Austin.

New Fellows: Susan Zieff and her committee members did a splendid job reviewing applications and recommending our NAK fellow class of 2014. One of the best parts of our annual meeting is when we welcome the new fellows into the NAK.

Program committee: Phil Martin and his committee have been busy identifying the theme, topics, and speakers for the 2014 meeting. And a great one it will be!

2013 Program proceedings: Patty Freedson did a splendid job in compiling papers for the recent edition of Kinesiology Review. Patty, thank you for a really great program in 2013! Clearly, without our volunteer leaders, NAK would be just a group of scholars who meet annually and share very interesting information among ourselves.

I want to recognize Mo Weiss for assuming the leadership of Kinesiology Review as the new editor and thank Jane Clark for her incredible contributions as the founding editor of NAK and AKA’s journal. It takes a lot of work to start a new journal and to convince people of the value in publishing their best work in a nonrefereed and nonindexed journal. Penny McCullough (president of AKA) and I (president of NAK) had a great discussion with Mo about her vision for the journal. I know Mo will give her best in ensuring that Kinesiology Review continues as a high-quality journal from our organizations.

If you haven’t decided whether you will attend our meeting in September, I encourage you to do so. NAK is only as strong as our member involvement. Induction is an honor, and participation is your privilege. So, take a moment, review your calendar, and pencil in September 12 to 14, 2014, in Austin, Texas! We will have a great program and an enjoyable time with our fellow colleagues.

**HETHERINGTON AWARD WINNER**

Glyn Roberts has been selected as the 2014 Hetherington Award recipient
Past President’s Message

Physical Activity: Enhancing Health and Reducing Disability is the Theme for NAK 2014.

By Phil Martin, NAK Past President

As I have talked with colleagues around the country, it sounds as if 2013-14 has been a very busy academic year for kinesiology departments and faculty. That certainly has been true this year at Iowa State. Our undergraduate enrollment continues to grow at a rapid rate, and I sense that is the case for most kinesiology departments in North America. I view the growth of our programs positively—our growth has certainly made a favorable impression on our campus leaders—but our growth has also created lots of challenges, most of which land on the shoulders of faculty and staff. I hope the summer months provide you with an opportunity to catch your breath and perhaps catch up on important work that was slowed or was set aside during the academic year.

I also hope you are making plans to attend this year’s NAK annual meeting from September 11 to 13. We will gather in Austin, Texas, at the AT&T Executive Education and Conference Center just off the University of Texas at Austin campus. The center looks like it will be a fabulous venue for our meeting. Jan Todd and Waneen Spirduso are serving as local hosts and planning a tour of the Stark Center for Physical Culture and Sports.

The theme for this year’s meeting is Physical Activity: Enhancing Health and Reducing Disability. Several individuals have assisted me with the process of shaping the conference theme and identifying presentation topics and potential speakers: Barbara Ainsworth, Cathy Ennis, Pat O’Connor, Debbie Rose, and Sandy Shultz. I appreciate their generous advice. The theme presents many great possibilities to showcase how kinesiology research and programs have played a significant role in enhancing health and reducing the challenges of disabling conditions or diseases across the life span.

We will follow a meeting format and schedule similar to that used in recent years. Dr. Claude Bouchard will kick off the annual meeting on Thursday evening by delivering the Rainer and Julie Martens Lecture. He will focus on genetic predisposition and physical activity as drivers of obesity and its comorbidities. Both Friday and Saturday will contain multiple sessions organized around subthemes, each with three or four presentations and time for open discussion. While the organization of these sessions has not been finalized, nearly all of the presentations have been confirmed. Topics covered in this year’s program will include exercise pharmacology; sex differences in ACL injury risk; exercise, physical activity, and rehabilitation strategies and outcomes for individuals with Alzheimer’s disease, chronic stroke survivors, and individuals with Parkinson’s disease; determinants of elite disability sport performance; effects of physical activity on telomere biology and aging; the impact of exercise on vascular function of African Americans; health behavior outcomes induced by changes in classroom and lunchroom environments and school physical education; physical activity and immune system function; acute and chronic consequences of concussive injuries; and the importance of developing bone health in adolescence and young adulthood. I am excited about the lineup of speakers and topics.

Please plan to attend this year’s meeting. We have a talented and accomplished group of new fellows, a great venue for the meeting, and an exciting and diverse program. I look forward to seeing you in Austin!
As I write this I am sitting in a campsite in northern New Hampshire enjoying the sights, sounds, and wonderful smells of the forest while still being able to connect my hotspot to the nearest cell tower to receive Internet and e-mail. It is amazing to consider the advances in communication and Internet technology just in the last 10 years. Two decades ago we were marveling at the advances in personal computing. In 1984 I was able to watch an entire Olympic event on TV while waiting for one page to print on my dot-matrix printer. Three cheers for the advances that make our work easier. I hope you, too, have opportunities to recharge over the summer.

As president-elect, my primary role this past year has been to chair the NAK nomination of officers and elections committee. I want to express my thanks to committee members Jim Pivarnik (Michigan State University), James Graves (University of Utah), Don Morgan (Middle Tennessee State University), and Mindy Millard-Stafford (Georgia Institute of Technology) for their willingness to nominate and select the candidates for president-elect, secretary-treasurer, and member at large. I also want to thank the candidates who agreed to run for these offices.

I have been excited to follow Phil Martin’s progress in planning the fall NAK meeting, Physical Activity: Enhancing Health and Reducing Disability, to be held at the AT&T Executive Center in Austin, Texas. It is always great to receive an update on the latest advances in kinesiology. Looking forward to seeing you in Austin!

2014-2015 OFFICERS

President-elect: Karl Newell
Secretary-treasurer: Brad Hatfield
Member at large: Melinda Solmon
This year’s annual meeting is scheduled for September 11 to 13, 2014, at the AT&T Executive Center (www.meetatx.com) in Austin, Texas. The hotel is conveniently located on the campus of the University of Texas at Austin and provides the comfort and utility of an executive-level facility at an affordable price. We have been able to secure a room rate of $179 per night (standard king or standard double queen) for conference attendees. Located on the edge of the Texas Hill country, Austin is well known as a progressive, community-oriented city whose citizens value self-expression and healthy living. The UT campus is in the heart of downtown Austin within walking distance to campus and the nightlife on Sixth Street. Austin-Bergstrom International Airport uses 10 airlines and offers nonstop service to 37 destinations including Los Angeles (LAX), New York (JFK), Chicago (Midway and O’Hare), and Washington, DC (Dulles). The airport is conveniently located on the southeast edge of Austin, just 10 minutes from the AT&T Center. Southwest Airlines also uses Austin as a hub, and NAK members are encouraged to check Southwest’s rates before booking.

The hotel boasts a sophisticated Texas style with exceptional views of the city, the UT Tower, and their courtyard and promises luxurious sleep on their soft pillow-top mattresses. Amenities include complimentary wireless Internet in guest rooms and meeting rooms; 24-hour fitness center; outdoor pool; fine-dining restaurant (the Carillon); a friendly café, bar, and sports lounge (Gabriel’s Café); and a café for handcrafted coffee, breakfast bite, or snack (One Twenty 5 Café).

There’s plenty to see and do in Austin,
such as cycling, playing tennis or golf, touring museums, sightseeing (bat watching, space cavern, touring the capitol, or the botanical gardens), boating, hiking, horseback riding, swimming, and visiting a spa!

We are planning a special treat for NAK members and guests with a tour of the H.J. Lutcher Stark Center for Physical Culture and Sports. Jan and Terry Todd will open the center for NAK fellows and their guests on Friday, September 12. Buses will pick you up from the AT&T Center and transport you to the Stark Center for a tour from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. From 7:30 to 7:45 p.m. buses will take you back to the AT&T Center, or you have the option to head to the Congress Avenue Bridge to see the largest urban bat colony in North America take their evening flight. At 8:15 board a Capital Cruise electric boat for a two-hour dinner and drinks cruise on Lady Bird Lake. Sign up for the Friday evening tour, reception, and cruise when you register for the meeting. We need to have a minimum of 21 people sign up for the dinner cruise. More details will be in the registration packet and on the website very soon.
In 2011, the University of Massachusetts created the Exceptional Merit Program for tenure-system faculty at UMass. This incentive program was proposed by the provost and was created to reward faculty who demonstrated meritorious achievement by providing increases to base salary. The faculty at UMass are unionized and thus the program had to first be approved by the union before being implemented by the provost. The approval process was not without controversy, and much disagreement and discussion took place between the upper administration and the union to create a fair and just set of criteria for selecting the faculty who qualified for exceptional-merit pay.

To provide some context for the exceptional-merit program, it is important to first understand how faculty salary raises are structured at UMass. As a unionized faculty, the union leadership and administration bargaining team negotiate new contracts every three to four years. These contracts have a fixed annual salary raise (usually 1 to 2% per year) for all faculty. Each department also receives a merit pool where the department personnel committee, department chair, and dean recommend and distribute the merit money based on job performance and productivity (research grants, peer-reviewed publications, presentations, teaching, service).

The exceptional-merit program is separate from this pay raise structure, and exceptional-merit raises are not given to all faculty. Exceptional-merit increases to the base salary are typically $5,000 to $10,000. A faculty member can self-nominate or be nominated by another faculty member, chair, or dean. In 2012, the provost received approximately 400 nominations, and a little more than half of these nominations were funded; the provost distributed about $1.3 million in exceptional-merit awards.

To receive an exceptional award, the faculty member must have achieved national or international renown in research, teaching, or service. This criterion is broad and can be interpreted in many ways. One common element that the provost uses to determine whether a faculty member has achieved national or international renown is fellowship in discipline-specific academies such as the National Academy of Science, American Association for the Advancement of Science, Institute for Electrical and Electronic Engineers, or American Psychological Association.

I have several faculty in my department who are recognized nationally and internationally for their research and who are fellows of the National Academy of Kinesiology. I submitted nominations for exceptional merit for these faculty members in my department. In addition to describing the basis for their national and international reputation as scholars in kinesiology, I stated that they were fellows of the National Academy of Kinesiology. I provided detailed information about the NAK, including its mission, and indicated it is an honorary society in our discipline. I received a call from the provost asking for more specifics about NAK, which I gladly provided to him. He agreed that this organization, while smaller
and less well known than AAAS and other honorary societies, further validated my nominations for the exceptional-merit raises for faculty in my department. Every NAK fellow I nominated for an exceptional-merit award has received one.

My faculty in kinesiology at UMass are proud to be members of the NAK, and we are all humbled by our colleagues’ endorsement of our reputation as scholars in kinesiology. I am also very pleased to see that the UMass provost respects and understands the meaning and value of NAK fellowship. He has acted in a very positive manner by providing well-deserved salary increases to the NAK fellows in my department.

2014 NAK NEW FELLOWS AND INTERNATIONAL FELLOWS

New Fellows

Edmund Acevedo, Virginia Commonwealth University
Barbara A. Boyce, University of Virginia
Barry Braun, University of Massachusetts-Amherst
Michael D. Brown, University of Illinois at Chicago
Donald R. Dengel, University of Minnesota
Mark Dyreson, Penn State University
Li Li, Georgia Southern University
Russell S. Richardson, University of Utah
Stephen M. Roth, University of Maryland
Maureen M. Smith, California State University, Sacramento
Amelia M. Woods, University of Illinois
James Zhang, University of Georgia

International Fellows

Ira Jacobs, University of Toronto
Melissa Parker, University of Limerick
David Rowe, University of Strathclyde
NAK Member News

Dr. Thom McKenzie (#307), emeritus professor at San Diego State University, received the honorary doctorate of philosophy (sport and health sciences) at the Conferment of Degrees Ceremony, University of Jyväskylä, Finland, on August 24, 2013. The Conferment of Degrees Ceremony is held every fourth year and in 2013 was held with special recognition of the 150th anniversary of the founding of the university and the 50th anniversary of Finland’s only faculty of sport and health sciences. The president of Finland, Sauli Niinistö, also received the honorary doctorate of sport and health sciences at the ceremony.

Additionally, Thom will receive the 2013 Science Board Honor Award from the President’s Council on Fitness, Sports and Nutrition at the national AAHPERD meeting in April 2014.

On Wednesday March 26, 2014, academy fellow emeritus George Sage (#263) made a hole in one at the Club West Golf Course in Phoenix. The hole in one was witnessed by playing partners Chuck Corbin and Chris MacCrate. Two weeks earlier George carded a score of 83 at Ironwood Golf Club in Sun Lakes, Arizona, shooting one fewer than his age (84). Congrats to George!

Beginning June 1, Maureen Weiss (#360) is the new editor of Kinesiology Review, the official journal of the National Academy of Kinesiology and the American Kinesiology Association. The mission of Kinesiology Review is to advance the field of kinesiology by publishing theoretical papers, integrative reviews, position papers, and similar manuscripts along conceptual and multidisciplinary lines. Empirical studies that are typical of specific disciplinary journals are not appropriate for Kinesiology Review. The journal is unique in publishing reviews from all disciplines in kinesiology—biological, physical, social, psychological, historical, philosophical—and strongly encourages papers that focus on timely issues that consider the contribution and interaction of multiple perspectives. Weiss is planning several initiatives to heighten the visibility, submission rate, and impact of the journal:

1. Increasing editorial board membership to reflect international representation
2. Envisioning a strategic plan to include solicited, themed issues on significant and timely multidisciplinary topics
3. Creating an executive board of scholars in various kinesiology disciplines who will help promote the journal by contributing ideas for the strategic plan; identifying themes and soliciting authors for themed issues; reviewing the journal mission, vision, and goals; and informing members at their disciplinary society meetings of Kinesiology Review as an outlet for their work.

More information will be shared at the annual NAK meeting in September.
Executive Board 2013-2014

**President**
Barbara Ainsworth, PhD  
Arizona State University  
School of Nutrition and Health Promotion  
500 N. Third St. Phoenix, AZ 85004  
Phone: 602-827-2291  
Email: barbara.ainsworth@asu.edu

**President-Elect**
Cathy Ennis, PhD  
University of North Carolina, Greensboro  
Department of Kinesiology  
1408 Walker Ave.  
Greensboro, NC 27402  
Phone: 336-256-8565  
Email: c_ennis@uncg.edu

**Past President**
Philip Martin, PhD  
Iowa State University  
235 Forker Bldg. Ames, IA 50114  
Phone: 515-294-8009  
Email: pemartin@iastate.edu

**Secretary-Treasurer**
Brad Cardinal, PhD  
Oregon State University  
220 Langton Hall  
Corvallis, OR 97331-3303  
Phone: 541-737-2506  
Email: Brad.Cardinal@oregonstate.edu

**Senior Member-at-Large**
Brad Hatfield, PhD  
University of Maryland  
Dept. of Kinesiology  
Room 2341 SPH Bldg.  
College Park, MD 20742  
Phone: 301-405-2485  
Email: bhatfiel@umd.edu

**Junior Member-at-Large**
David Wiggins, PhD  
George Mason University  
10017 Latimer Court  
Fairfax, VA 22032  
Phone: 703-993-2057  
Email: dwiggin1@gmu.edu

**Business Manager**
Kim Scott  
P.O. Box 5076  
Champaign, IL 61825-5076  
Phone: 217-403-7545  
Fax: 217-351-2674  
Email: kims@aakpe.org

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AAKPE Newsletter  
Managing Editor: Amy Rose  
Copyeditor: Jan Feeney  
Designer: Sean Roosevelt  
Newsletter Advisors: Brad Hatfield, David Wiggins

Human Kinetics  
P.O. Box 5076 Champaign, IL USA 61825-5076  
www.HumanKinetics.com