

Tucker Center for Research on Girls & Women in Sport

Tucker Center News

Fall 1998

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Greetings from the Tucker Center. As fall quarter gets underway, we are gearing up for another exciting and productive year. Toward this end, we are pleased to announce a new member of the Tucker Center, grantswriter Wendy Veazie. Wendy is not only dedicated to the mission of the Tucker Center, she is also experienced in preparing research grant proposals at the local and federal levels. Her efforts will enable the Tucker Center to produce cutting-edge research on girls and women in sport. Please see the "Staff Updates" section inside this newsletter for more information about Wendy and what we know will be her important contribution to the Tucker Center.

This fall we continue our tradition with the Borghild Strand Distinguished Lecture Series. We are extremely honored to announce that Anita L. DeFrantz, International Olympic Committee (IOC) board member and President of the Amateur Athletic Foundation of Los Angeles, will be our next speaker. Ms. DeFrantz will focus on the role of women in the Olympic Movement. Her lecture takes place Monday, November 16 at Cowles Auditorium in the Hubert H. Humphrey Center from 7:00-9:00 PM. A member of the 1976 and 1980 Olympic teams, DeFrantz is the first woman ever to be elected as Vice-President of the IOC and was named one of the 100 Most Powerful People in Sports by the *Sporting News*. If you have any questions about this exciting event, please see the enclosed flyer or call 612-625-7327.

In addition to our Distinguished Lecture Series, the Tucker Center's collaborative projects with Minnesota high schools and Minneapolis television station KARE-11 will continue this fall. The high school workshops, designed for adolescent females, teach critical thinking skills by examining past and current media depictions of athletic females. Research has consistently shown that females are portrayed in ways that emphasize their femininity and physical attractiveness, rather than their accomplishments as highly competent sportswomen. After viewing examples from newspapers and magazines that illustrate such research findings, workshop participants brainstorm and collaborate with their peers to create alternative, empowering images of female athleticism. These images are then displayed within the school to encourage a broader discussion of the ways in which female athletes can be portrayed in a positive light. The workshops have been so successful that we have been asked by a local foundation to expand the program state-wide.

The KARE-11 project involves the production of a 30 minute documentary that explores the impact of Title IX and gender equity on women's sports in Minnesota. This documentary will be aired by KARE-11 sometime in late fall or early winter. We'll keep you posted on the broadcast date.

The Tucker Center is also involved in a collaborative research project with Professor Stuart Schleien, a former faculty member in the University of Minnesota's School of Kinesiology and Leisure Studies. Now serving as Head of the Department of Leisure Studies at the University of North Carolina-Greensboro, Professor Schleien is known for his significant contributions in the areas of therapeutic recreation and community inclusion of people with disabilities. A combination of Schleien's expertise, and the Tucker Center's focus on the media, will provide a critical analysis of how female athletes with disabilities are portrayed in magazines targeted toward individuals with physical disabilities. An interview with Dr. Schleien can be found on the following page, under our Affiliated Scholar Profile.

Finally, look further in this newsletter to learn more about the Tucker Center's recent staff additions and updates. Our commitment to graduate education, research, and outreach is well-served and documented by these valuable and enthusiastic individuals.



Dr. Mary Jo Kane



Anita DeFrantz

AFFILIATED SCHOLAR PROFILE: STUART SCHLEIEN

Stuart J. Schleien, Ph.D., CTRS, Affiliated Scholar with the Tucker Center since its inception, has been working to increase community inclusion for persons with disabilities since 1973. His career has taken him from the University of Maryland as an Instructor, to Full Professor at the University of Minnesota's School of Kinesiology and Leisure Studies, to his present position as Professor and Department Head at the University of North Carolina-Greensboro's Department of Leisure Studies in the School of Health and Human Performance.

Dr. Schleien's research interests involve studying organizational behavior from grassroots organizations up to government agencies with a focus on systemic change



Stuart J. Schleien, Ph.D., CTRS

to increase agencies' accommodations for persons with disabilities. According to Schleien, efforts in disability research are largely geared toward computers and technology designed to assist persons with disabilities with very little research into media representations of persons with disabilities. Though the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) has helped with issues of architectural access, Schleien contends that "ADA watchdog agencies have very little teeth. As budgets keep shrinking, access becomes more and more of a problem, both in terms of access to buildings and programs."

Drs. Schleien and Kane are presently pursuing a grant in the area of media representations of persons with disabilities. Though decreases in federal programs have made research funding difficult to obtain, Schleien contends a research proposal in this direction is a worthwhile endeavor citing similarities between societal attitudes toward persons with disabilities and those toward women. "The parallels are amazing. In talking with Dr. Kane I was thinking that what she was saying about women could as easily be said about persons with disabilities. For instance, in her area of media representations of female athletes, most media outlets regarding sport were created by males for male consumption, making representations of women somewhat

problematic. The same holds true for issues concerning persons with disabilities. Programs for persons with disabilities, including Parks and Recreation programs with which I work, have also been designed by males for males and consequently, though a municipality may want to accommodate a woman with disabilities, it starts from a closed mindset where females are already underserved. The person finds herself in the 'double-whammy' of being female and disabled. And as far as access to sport for a woman with disabilities, Title IX has had zero impact." He adds that this discussion does not even touch on race and ethnic issues of exclusion, nor does it include levels of disability and how a person with a significant disability stands to be excluded to an even larger degree.

"Don't ask whether a person with disabilities should be included but how that inclusion will occur."

Schleien wants to see marketing and promotions within agencies go beyond their present exclusive mindset in order to show they are clearly interested in serving their entire public, including persons with disabilities and women with equal consideration. He contends strongly that, "There must be systemic change in the organization. Bringing a girl with a disability into a Girl Scout troop, for instance, is a start—but it's only part of the answer. The relationships between and among the girl, her family, her peers in the troop, and the Girl Scouts organization should all be long-term, sustainable, and socially inclusive. The question asked should be, 'Are we benefiting everyone?' The relationship should not only be an attempt to include this particular girl, but should build ongoing relationships in order to promote inclusive thinking. Don't ask *whether* a person with disabilities should be included but *how* that inclusion will occur." Schleien adds, "This is a zero-exclusion approach and it is very difficult to build and maintain. The friendship piece alone [between the person with a disability and her peers] is a career in and of itself. We have a lot to learn about how to do this."

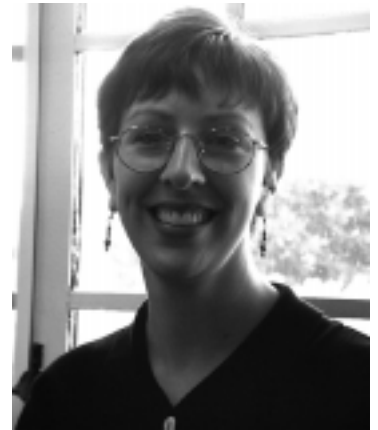
Schleien cares deeply about these issues and the people he tries to serve. When asked what his future research plans are, Schleien said "This *is* my future plan. Very few agencies in the country or world are fully developed systemically with respect to persons with disabilities. We need to get administrators, practitioners, and families all on board. There is a lifetime's worth of work to do here and any small part of it could keep me busy for the next decade."

GRANTSWRITER HIRED

Wendy Veazie began working this September as the Tucker Center's new grantswriter/project coordinator. Her first grant proposals will target support from foundations for replicating and expanding the Center's project addressing media representations of female athletes. Prior to joining the Tucker Center, Wendy managed a national grant project in the field of aging for the University of Minnesota's School of Public Health.

Education: B.S. in Business and Finance, Cornell University; M.P.A., with a concentration in Health Policy, Syracuse University.

Professional Interests: Connection between fitness/strength and self-esteem development in girls and women. Wendy's commitment to innovative research on girls and women is right on course with the mission of the Tucker Center: "I became aware of the Tucker Center's fine work last year when I saw their report on *Physical Activity & Sport in the Lives of Girls*. I was impressed by the level of scholarship and national attention the Center was bringing to such important issues. I'm proud to join the Tucker Center and add my voice as an advocate for women and girls to realize their unlimited potential, in sport and in life."



Wendy Veazie, MPA

NEW VOLUNTEERS

• **Ilia N. Morales-Figueroa** will volunteer at the Tucker Center this fall on a number of projects. Ilia received her Master's degree in Kinesiology in January, 1998, and is now in the process of completing her Ph.D., also in Kinesiology.

Education: B.S., Psychology, University of Puerto Rico; M.S., Kinesiology, UMN.

Professional Interests: Experiences of high school girls in sport. Asked why she wanted to work in the Tucker Center, Ilia replied, "I decided to volunteer at the Tucker Center because I am interested in working with girls participating in sport. This is a way to learn more about the issues they face and the alternatives available."

• **Maura Rosenthal** is a Ph.D. student in Kinesiology (Sport Sociology) at the University of Minnesota. Before returning to

graduate school, Maura was the Head Coach of the Women's Soccer Program and Assistant Coach of the Fast-Pitch Softball Program at Hamline University in St. Paul, MN.

Education: B.A., Anthropology, Emory University; M.A., Exercise Science, George Washington University.

Professional Interests: Women's ice hockey, the positive effects of sport on adolescent girls' self esteem, and sexuality and sport. Maura is anxious to collaborate with other members of the Tucker Center: "Working with the Tucker Center will provide me a place to share research ideas and interests, and contribute to the tradition of fine scholarship that comes out of the Tucker Center."



Ilia Morales-Figueroa



Maura Rosenthal

STAFF UPDATES AND TRANSITIONS

• **Missy Lott**, who is beginning her BS in Kinesiology at the University of Minnesota, joined the Tucker Center as an intern this summer. She has assisted in a number of projects including putting together reading lists of recent publications on Title IX/Gender Equity, exercise and amenorrhea, homophobia in sport, and strength training for women. For a copy of these lists, please call or email us. Missy also helped to develop and streamline our database and make website updates. She will continue to assist the Tucker Center throughout the year as she pursues her degree.

• **Courtney Henniff**, a former research assistant with the Tucker Center, graduated in June, 1998, with a M.S. in Kinesiology, and is currently working toward her Ph.D. degree in counseling psychology with an emphasis in sport psychology at the University of North Texas. Courtney works with UNT's recently opened Center for Sport Psychology and Performance Excellence where she will continue her research in sport injury and eating disorders among athletes.

• **Darcy Kyle** is completing an internship with the Tucker Center this fall. Her primary focus is to assist Joan Fry, a visiting scholar at the Tucker Center, with her research project on East Asian and Anglo Saxon Celtic Australian girls and physical activity. Darcy's short-term goal is to enter a Ph.D. program in physical education pedagogy. Darcy's interests are in teaching and learning theory as it relates to physical education as well as motor learning and the acquisition of motor skills for children in physical education programs.

• **Joah Ionnatta**, formerly a Research Fellow with the Tucker Center, has plunged back into graduate school as a Research Assistant. Joah will pursue her Ph.D. in Kinesiology and continue her outstanding work with the Tucker Center.

• **Karri Smith** remains closely associated with the Tucker Center. She has also accepted a Graduate Assistantship with the University of Minnesota's Department of Recreational Sports.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Melanie Williams, HBO Sports Associate Producer, is **in search of film footage** recording women's participation in sport for an upcoming HBO documentary. Do you have any video/film/footage of women participating in sports or sports related activities pre-1950? HBO SPORTS is looking for *any* unusual, funny, or rare footage of women in athletics for an upcoming documentary on the history of women in sports. Please contact HBO at 888-302-1199 to get involved in the project.
- An **ice hockey facility and soccer stadium devoted to women's athletics** continues the proud tradition of the University of Minnesota, and the Department of Women's Athletics, as a national leader in women's sports. The University is preparing final design plans for the new facilities and construction could begin as early as April 1999 with completion scheduled in August 2000.
- The **Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA)** is officially coming to Minnesota! The sale of 5,000 season tickets secured the expansion team's arrival in Minneapolis for the upcoming season. The opening tip is scheduled for June, 1999. For more information, contact Paul Kemble at 612-673-1391 or kemble@timberwolves.com.
- "Playing in a New League" by Sara Gogol (Masters Press): The **first and only book about the American Basketball League (ABL)** is about to hit the stands! Author Sara Gogol provides a look at the history of women's basketball and its evolution into professional leagues in the United States. She considers the present and future of both new women's pro leagues, the ABL and WNBA, through personal narratives of players and coaches.

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DO YOU HAVE A COMMENT OR SUGGESTION FOR US?

The Tucker Center for Research on Girls & Women in Sport is always looking for suggestions from you for future Distinguished Lecture Series scholars or announcements you'd like to see in our newsletter. We appreciate your feedback. Please call or email your suggestions for future Distinguished Lecture Series scholars, announcements, or other comments or suggestions to us at 612-625-7327 • crgws@tc.umn.edu. Thanks!

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