

**Soaring to New Heights
N4A Annual Convention Agenda
Salt Lake City, UT
June 10-13, 2010**

Friday, June 11

9:30 am – 10:45 am

#1 “Who Are Your Students? A Model for Student Assessment”

Presenters: Jennifer Timmer & Leah Seal, Louisiana State University

The presenters will explain best practices of student assessment including a collaborative activity for informal student assessment. The presentation will address three questions of student assessment: why assessment is important, what to assess, and how to assess. Assessment is important so that proactive, cost-effective supports can be put in place. To determine appropriate supports, institutional expectations must be assessed and the student-athlete population compared to the larger student population. The amount of contrast is a good indication of necessary support. A tiered system of assessment allows for information-gathering from all student-athletes, informal assessment when concerns arise, and formal assessment when appropriate.

#2 “Internal Manual, Assessments, and Benchmarks for your Center”

Presenters: Dr. Joe Luckey & Kimya Massey, University of Memphis

This presentation is directed to professionals who are responsible for management of the academic program/center or anyone looking to provide more structure to one's academic program. Presentation includes examples of structural processes created to document internal procedures, programming assessed on an annual basis, and benchmarks set for a strategic plan. The process has also allowed for more targeted discussions in staff meetings.

#3 “Predicting First-Year GPA and Retention of Student-Athletes Using Demographic, Academic, and Athletic Variables”

Presenter: James Johnson, Ball State University

This program will describe the research process used to predict two primary components of the APR (i.e., GPA and retention). An explanation of the relevant review of literature, methodology, and results will highlight the presentation. This program will also discuss how the results relate to the APR, which was a catalyst for the research. Guests will be encouraged to ask questions and share their own experiences about the variables explored in this study. The format will be mostly lecture via Power Point, but handouts and discussion will be included.

#4 “Upperclass Courses for Student-Athletes: Exploring Work & Transitioning to the Real World”

Presenters: Alison Ruff & Phil Moses, North Carolina State University

The purpose of this session is to give participants an example of course curriculum on two courses taught by a student-athlete academic support program that are open to all university students, but targeted to student-athletes in response to their needs in lack of preparedness for both the work force and post-graduation life. All course materials, syllabi, assignments, agendas, and resources will be shared and reviewed. Additionally, the intent of this session to help programs find alternate ways of reaching out to student-athletes in cost effective methods, such as adding a course like this using existing “faculty”; inherent discussion will identify needs of student-athletes at participant’s institutions and applicability of curriculum framework.

#5 “Social Networking Sites: Friend or Foe?”

Presenters: Jennifer Quirk, Fairleigh Dickinson University & Jon Harris, AthLife

Social Networking sites have inundated the student-athletes with which we work. Many times it is the best (or only) way to get information to the students. There are also pitfalls as to responsibilities if you utilize these sites as administrators. This program will address both the positives and negatives of using social networking sites in programming and communicating with the sometimes hard-to-reach students, specifically looking at schools who choose to use and choose to prohibit use of social networking sites to give a unbiased presentation for attendees to make an educated decision whether social networking sites are useful for their institution.

#6 “Multi-Tasking at its Best: Dual Responsibility Roles in Athletics”

Presenter: Sarabeth Pollock, University of San Diego

The session will start off with a look at the way some jobs are structured to include multiple responsibilities (i.e. academic counselor and compliance coordinator), and the focus of the presentation and subsequent roundtable discussion is how to best manage these multiple jobs/roles that often compete for our full attention. Special attention will be given to those jobs which have evolved/changed in response to budget cuts so that one person is now handling more roles than he/she was previously. Attendees will be free to ask questions and solicit advice about their current positions.

1:45pm – 3:00pm

#7 Minority Opportunities Athletic Association (MOAA)

Presenter: Stan Johnson, MOAA

The Minority Opportunities Athletic Association (MOAA) provides opportunities to exchange ideas, advocate increased participation and administrative opportunities for minorities in athletics. The MOAA also promotes generating a sports culture that supports the values necessary to teach and learn respect for self and others.

#8 “Student-Athletes with Learning Disabilities: It’s Not a Learning Style”

Presenter: Dr. Terry MacDonald, Utica College

Too often we address disability needs of our student-athletes ONLY as problems with learning styles and study skills. In order to fully address their learning needs, we must examine the interaction of cognitive abilities, academic skills, and task demands. This session will present a model for creating student-specific learning profiles and for planning academic interventions for our student-athletes with LD.

#9 “Using Google Apps to Improve Academic Support Services for Student Athletes: Research, Design, Implementation and Assessment”

Presenters: Marlon Dechausay and Becky Lee, Florida State University

This presentation will review current research on the technology exposure of traditional aged learners and the implications learner ability, aptitude and expectations have on academic support services. Presenters will discuss how the Florida State University Athletic Academic Support has responded to the characteristics of learners using Google Apps to improve the efficiency and collaborative capabilities of services offered to student athletes. This presentation will review the design, implementation and continued assessment of our web-based, collaborative services provided to students using Google Apps.

#10 “A Comparative Analysis of Pre and Post Academic Reform Special Admits”

Presenters: Dr. Gerald Gurney and Carla Winters, University of Oklahoma

The importance of this presentation examines the progress of specially admitted student-athletes at a large BCS conference institution and will develop specific risk factors for marginal student-athletes. The presentation will provide insight for those providing academic support and assessment services to this population and will assess the efficacy of new NCAA initial eligibility standards.

#11 “Soaring From the College Nest”

Presenter: Donna Menke, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

The presentation will highlight what former Division I student-athletes from revenue producing sports, believed to be the benefits of their college experience. And what areas, if any, they believe were negatively affected by their participation in college athletics. These stories are the results of my qualitative dissertation on the costs and benefits of participation in college athletics. Attendees will hear these stories and the themes that resulted from this study. It is hoped that attendees can provide input as to how to meet the challenges counselors face when preparing college athletes for life after college and life after sport.

#12 “What Motivates You? Motivation for the Motivators!”

Presenter: Alise Svihla, James Madison University

Do you ever wonder if you really ARE making a difference? Like our student-athletes, we face many pressures and there are times when we feel stressed, unmotivated, and uninspired. In order to be effective advisors for our student-athletes, we need to find ways to motivate ourselves. In this session, the presenter will introduce ideas, such as

gratitude journals and the infamous "happy box," for how to stay motivated in this profession.

Saturday, June 12

10:00am – 11:15am

#13 “Can non-cognitive variables predict freshmen student-athlete academic success?”

Presenter: Jessica Hammond, University of Maryland Baltimore County

This session will describe a study conducted on roughly 100 incoming student-athletes to predict academic success using variables other than SAT and high school GPA. The history of non-cognitive variables, current data, and implications for future programming will also be discussed.

#14 “A Game Plan for Success: Developing a Successful Peer Mentoring Program

Presenters: Lynaye Stone, Jason Thomas and Katie Szilagyi, Utah State University

Utah State University has managed to build a unique football academic peer mentoring program. With this program, the Aggies have seen their grades rise significantly, and their student-athletes have developed skill sets needed to become independent learners. This interactive presentation will include an overview of the program and resources that have been effective in supporting the learning needs of football student-athletes.

#15 “The Benefits of Psychological Services: How to Make a Good Referral”

Presenters: Mike McCall and Kendra Ogletree-Cusaac, University of South Carolina

This session will discuss the process for making referrals for assessment and treatment of various psychological disorders. In addition to discussing the impact of the NCAA stimulant drug policy for treatment of ADHD, this session will cover the warning signs of students in distress, referral of students to the proper clinicians, and the benefits of this process for the athletic department.

#16 “Two-Year College Review of NCAA data and Potential Legislative Changes on Remediation”

Presenters: Evans Roderick, Mount San Antonio College and NCAA Representative

This presentation will review the findings of the NCAA two-year college data and discuss the potential proposals to address the issues of the two-year college student athlete and remediation. We will discuss how the 5-year clock for Division I and the two-year college student athlete in remedial classes can still get a good education and compete.

#17 “A Proactive Solution: ADVANCE Student-Athlete Orientation”

Presenters: Brooke Richardson and Heather Bell, University of Tennessee

ADVANCE is a student-athlete orientation held at the Thornton Athletic Student Life Center for all new freshmen and transfer student-athletes. The purpose of this orientation is to not only build upon the campus orientation but to ensure our students have all the

tools they need to start their college career off on the right foot from the very first day they step into a classroom. The presenters will cover the details of the orientation and how it can be beneficial and adapted to all universities.

#18 “Model Practices Award Winner”

Presenters: TBD

1:45pm – 3:00pm

#19 “STEP UP!: Leadership and Integrity in the Classroom”

Presenters: Mike Meade and Lisa Napoleon, University of Arizona and Steve McDonnell, Colorado State University

This session will first provide an overview of the STEP UP! program model, which addresses the five steps in being a leader and making a difference through bystander intervention. This model will be applied to the topic of academic integrity, and how student-athletes can STEP UP! to help their peers make appropriate decisions. Attendees will be encouraged to participate in healthy dialogue based on specific real-life scenarios that impact the academic integrity of student-athletes and entire sport programs.

#20 “Smooth Start: Working with High Risk Student-Athletes in a Group Setting”

Presenters: Sandy Thomas, Dr. Ron Chamberlain, Dr. Phillip Rash, and Jamal Willis, Brigham Young University

The “Smooth Start” group is designed to assist high risk student-athletes as they enter their first semester of college at Brigham Young University. The group is co-facilitated by an academic advisor and sport psychologist. The group’s focus is on education, motivation, mentoring, counseling, supporting, and encouraging student-athletes. The group was a success and will continue to be used with BYU student-athletes.

#21 “Implementing a Diversity & Inclusion Program”

Presenters: Bridget Warren, Doug Tiedt and Valyncia Raphael, University of Wisconsin-Madison

As a way to improve the qualitative experience for student-athletes of color, the University of Wisconsin-Madison, through its CHAMPS/Life Skills program, has created a Diversity and Inclusion Program which includes a centralized structure that connects with campus, a mentor program for first year student-athletes of color, a registered student organization and co-sponsored diversity events with campus constituents.

#22 “Communication Strategies for Effective Academic Support and Advising”

Presenters: Carrie Leger, North Carolina State University, Dr. Joe Luckey, University of Memphis, and Joe Pignataro, Michigan State University

This panel will be a facilitated discussion that explores innovative and effective strategies for supporting and integrating academic advising within an athletics department. This diverse panel will draw on their professional experiences and share lessons that have helped them create dialogue between and among various campus constituencies.

#23 “Transfer Troubles”

Presenter: Dena Freeman-Patton, Georgia State University

This session will be in presentation format with discussion at the end. It is targeted for all levels and positions. We will discuss the concerns in dealing with transfer student-athletes and how to help them to be successful at their new school. We go over a couple of case studies and discuss the differences in dealing with a four-year transfer and a junior college transfer. We will also deal with differences among various sports. The session is meant to promote and share ideas.

#24 “Recommendations for Rookies”

Presenters: Colleen Campbell, Loyola University Maryland, Kenneth Miles, Louisiana State University, Brittany Wagner, East Mississippi State Community College, Kevin Wall, Syracuse University, and Danez Marrable, University of Alabama-Birmingham

New to the field of academic advising? Join five veteran academic advisors from small and large institutions as they share their knowledge and experience working in the field. Developing relationships, maintaining a work-life balance, effective counseling and advising techniques, advisor-coach issues, advisor-student-athletes issues, APR/compliance issues as well as best practices in the field will be covered in this presentation geared at the “rookie” advisor.

3:15pm – 4:30pm

#25 “Operating an Effective Learning Assistance Program for Learning Disabled Student-Athletes”

Presenters: Kim Durand, University of Washington and Scott Swain, University of Tennessee

With recent developments and negative media presentations we believe it is important to show that a learning assistance program can be run both effectively and ethically from the director point of view. The programs at Washington and Tennessee will be detailed along with the pitfalls these programs and/or personnel have encountered. There will be time left for questions so the audience can deepen their understanding.

#26 “Your Degree First, International Connection, and Ladies First: Taking Diversity Programming to New Heights”

Presenter: Will Sheppard, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

This presentation will look at the successful programs for Women, International, and African American student athletes at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Ladies First, International Connection, and Your Degree First are three student athlete led organizations that focus on programming needs that will introduce them to diversity issues, other cultures and acclimate them to new cultures other than their own. Each organization discussed will have specific goals that will create an inclusive environment for which discussions, opinions, and ideas can be shared. We will look at each organization and how these goals and missions are accomplished through programming that go from the college campus to the community and beyond.

#27 “Self-Monitoring: Students Keeping Themselves on Track”

Presenters: Valorie Lott and Jessie Mills, University of Memphis

This presentation will provide an explanation of and case studies related to self-monitoring. Self-monitoring is a procedure in which one can increase positive behavior without the need for additional funds or staff. Self-monitoring has helped students with and without disabilities be on task more often in the classroom, improve academic performance, and complete homework assignments. The case studies in the presentation are based on research conducted at the University of Memphis during the Spring 2010 semester.

#28 “One Size Doesn't Fit All: A Multiple Identity Approach to Working with Student Athletes”

Presenter: Oscar Collins, University of Massachusetts-Amherst

Student-athletes face challenges of adjustment when they enter the University due to the fact that they are comprised of multiple identities. The presenter will begin by sharing information on various relevant social justice theories which influence how we support and interact with student athletes. To reinforce information, participants will be engaged in role plays based on case studies.

#29 “The Impact of Quality Mentoring on Developing Life and Leadership Skills”

Presenter: Jeff McCann, Athlife

Research in the area of student-athlete development emphasizes the importance of the relationship between counselor/advisor/coach and their student-athletes. This presentation will briefly examine effective mentoring components, simple approaches to quality relationship building, and the importance of the potential impact on identity formation as it relates to life and leadership skill building.

#30 “Research Award Winner”

Presenters: TBD