



Alliance Wide Call

Our next Alliance Wide call will be on Saturday, March 23rd. Information on the time and guest speaker to come shortly. Future calls will be on May 25th, July 27th, September 28th, and November 23rd. Mark your calendars!

New Members

Thank you to all our members who renewed their membership for 2019! We are thrilled to welcome back over 150 members!

Brand new members include: Amber Tacke, Amy Pope-Latham, Justin Singleton, Wesley Gosselin, Rachel Jankowsky, Amy Mayes, Michelle Parrott, Neha Uberoi Khangoora, April Harmon, Kristina Faimon, Carter Bain, Amy Trussell, and Erica Magier

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ASWIS Group

A Letter from the President

Dear ASWIS Membership:

I hope everyone is having a great start to 2019. Since our last letter, so much heartbreak has happened in the world of sports. A University of Utah student-athlete was killed by a former boyfriend - even after pleading with police about her safety. A University of Montana football player ended his own life too soon. We've learned more about the potential causes of a Northwestern student-athlete ending her own life. As I reflect on these happenings, I can't help but wonder what dreams and goals these student-athletes had. These athletes had so much ahead of them in life, but faced various adversities that many of us cannot even fathom. As we continue our journey to promote athlete health and well-being, I leave us all with a simple message from the incredible Jackie Robinson, "Life is not a spectator sport. If you're going to spend your whole life in the grandstand watching what goes on, in my opinion you're wasting your life." Athletes need us, coaches need us, sport organizations need us, and the larger community of sport needs us. Together, we can make 2019 a year where no ASWIS member sits in the grandstand. Instead, we are all going to work tirelessly and collaboratively to leave our imprint on the present and future of sport. We will not spectate - we will perform.

Matt Moore, PhD, MSW

Thoughts from a Practitioner - Ms. Anita Daniels, ASWIS Vice President

I had the privilege of attending a conversation about mental wealth at Duke University with former WNBA player, Chamique Holdsclaw. As I listened to Chamique's story, it took me back to our Symposium Keynote Speaker, Dr. William Parham. He gave us a refresher on ACES (Adverse Childhood Experiences) and how they may negatively impact child, youth, and adulthood.

I didn't attend the workshop because I knew Chamique. I attended because of my commitment to the mental wealth of all persons, especially athletes at this time in my professional career. Here were some takeaways from the workshop.

(1) **Listen! With your ears. And your eyes.** If someone is acting in a peculiar way, don't stop trying to figure out what's wrong. (2) **Isolation is a red flag.** If a client cannot be found, this is not a good sign. Find them and get them the help they need. (3) **Don't gloss over what you hear and see with phrases like, "You'll be alright." "You're strong!" "You're a superstar!"** You might be surprised to know that these types of phrase add to the anxiety and depression because you do NOT appear to be listening with your ears. And your eyes. (4) **Reach out when everyone else runs.** As long as an athlete is on top, people swarm like bees over honey. But when the going gets tough, too many people are quick to move on to the next fad. Or superstar. (5) **Encourage clients (including athletes) to make small investments in their health and well-being.** It may be as simple as practicing mindfulness; taking their medication every day; reducing alcohol and avoiding illegal substances, including other people's prescription medications; exercise; eliminating toxic people and relationships, even family members if necessary. (6) **Be a STIGMA fighter.** It is up to us as social workers and persons who serve others to educate our clients, their families, their coaches, even their friends (with permission of course) - - mental illness is no different than any other illness, like diabetes, hypertension, or hyperthyroidism. It is not nor does it have to be a death sentence. Some of the very same life changes one makes to improve their physical health also enhance their mental wealth.

Many thanks to Mrs. Chamique Holdsclaw for her transparency and tenderness. She is indeed a GENTLE GIANT!



The Bill Vanderwill Award for Outstanding Leadership In Sport Social Work

By: Dr. Emmett Gill

Thank you Bill!

Seven years ago I met Bill Vanderwill while at the University of Michigan School of Social Work Sport Social Work Day panel. When you meet Bill he is so incredible that you think, “he can’t be like this all the time?”.

Bill Vanderwill is the incredibly genuine, humble, resourceful, passionate, and super smart social work dude that just so happens to love sports. Many of us have come to realize that Bill is Bill... all the time.

Thank you Bill! For being a champion for sport social work by planting the seed for ASWIS.

Thank you for helping us see the positive attributes of sports via the articles you send.

Thank you for all the connections you generate for social workers, sport or not, through your Facebook posts.

Thank you for the many pep talks you have given to (up and coming) social workers while covertly pushing this “thing” called sport social work.

Thank you for acknowledging that magnifying sport social work would not be easy, but still imploring us to continue to move forward and fight for our space in sports.

Thank you Bill! Every time, and we mean every time, your students or colleagues ask you for help and you are there.

Lastly, congratulations - on receiving the ASWIS Bill Vanderwill Award for Outstanding Leadership in Sport Social Work - you are so awesome we beam knowing this annual award is in your name!

Thank you Bill!

Check out our other new blog post

"A Personal Story"

By: Wesley Gosselin

"New Jersey Wrestling Saga and the Policing of Black Athletes, Culture, and Style"

By: Zachary Draves

Fights, Black Male College Athletes, and Trauma

By: Dr. Emmett Gill

Committee Updates

- *Research and Policy Committee* - the committee continues to seek advice from key stakeholders about implementation of the newly created policy platform. The committee will also update the research center on the website throughout February.
- *Committee on College Sports* - the committee would like to welcome Corinne Coia as the new chair. Lorin Mordecai will become the co-chair. Lorin is in the process of completing her doctoral dissertation. Thank you Corinne and way to go Lorin.
- *Committee on Youth Sports* - the committee drafted a letter they sent to Steve Savarese, Executive Director of the AHSAA and Mr. Johnny Hardin, President of the AHSAA Central Board, advocating that Maori Davenport be able to play her senior season of high school basketball.
- *Committee on Professional Sports* - The committee is continuing to work on a fact sheet about the role of social workers in professional sports. The committee is also continuing dialogue with professional sports organizations about the strength of the licensed clinicians in our membership.
- *Education Committee* - the committee is pleased to announce 18 students are currently enrolled in the Sport Social Work Certificate Program. Information on the 2019 Sport Social Work Symposium will be coming soon!

An Open Letter to Power 5 Conferences

We hope this message finds you well.

Thank you for supporting legislation that will help to enhance the mental and behavioral health of your student-athletes. The Alliance of Social Workers in Sports (ASWIS) is truly excited about the infinite ways that athletic departments can comply with the new NCAA bylaw.

ASWIS hopes athletic departments will not only look to address pressing issues like student-athletes who have their functioning impacted by a mental health diagnosis, but also see this as an opportunity to promote positive mental wealth/health and self-care.

While the legislation will spur some athletic departments to fine tune their mental health services, others will be developing programs from the ground up or creating partnerships with existing mental health services.

Whenever you are ready to develop a plan to meet this requirement, ASWIS welcomes the opportunity to help you and your athletic department enhance or create mental health services for your student-athletes.

ASWIS membership includes numerous social workers at Power 5 conference schools and many other NCAA and NAIA institutions. These members not only provide direct practice but also understand programmatic, public health, and ecological approaches to providing mental health services.

ASWIS welcomes any opportunity to work collaboratively with you, your athletic department, and the current providers supporting the healthy growth and development of your student-athletes. You can reach us by phone at 800-567-1178 or by email at socialworkersinsports@gmail.com.

Sincerely,
ASWIS Leadership

Job Center Update

Be sure to check out our updated job center for current postings related to Sport Social Work. We strongly encourage our members to apply for these positions and further expand our visibility. You can access the job center by [clicking here](#).

2019 Social Work in Sports Symposium

Mark your calendars for our 2019 symposium. The symposium will take place from October 21st through October 23rd in Denver, Colorado. The call for proposals, venue, and accommodations will be available in the coming weeks. If you have connections in Denver please let us know!

Certificate Program

Applications are currently being accepted for the fourth cohort of the Sport Social Work Certificate Program. ASWIS is still seeking qualified instructors for some of the courses. If interested please contact Dr. Emmett Gill (socialworkersinsports@gmail.com).

Annual Membership Update

Our Executive Team has now fully implemented the January to January membership enrollment. The member list on our website reflects all members in good standing with the Alliance. We will also be updating the listserv to reflect these current members. It is never too late to rejoin. You can either pay the invoice you received or pay directly online by going to <https://www.paypal.me/NASWIS>.



ASWIS to have a Presence at the Council on Social Work Education Conference

ASWIS purchased a primary booth space for the 2019 CSWE Conference. This will be an excellent way for ASWIS to educate about sport social work, to engage potential members, and to have a larger presence at a primary social work conference. Thank you to Stacy Kratz for helping to organize this effort.

If you plan on attending CSWE and would like to help in the booth please reach out to Stacy at skratz@usc.edu

Welcome to our New Practicum Students and Intern

ASWIS is excited to host two MSW students from the University of Alabama this semester for their practicum placement. Please join us in welcoming Tiffany Scott and Cindy Weissmann-Gelb. We are also excited to have Maggie Richey as a new intern. Maggie is a BSW student at Utah State University.

ASWIS has now hosted students from the University of Southern California, Troy University, University of Nevada, Ball State University, Utah State University, The University of Alabama, and the University of Connecticut. If you are a student interested in working with us please reach out.

Membership Announcements

- Maya Anderson is a graduate student at UCLA and currently sits on the Academic Senate Committee as the graduate student representative for UCLA Athletics. She will be co-leading / planning the first graduate fair for UCLA student-athletes.
- Lorin Mordecai presented at the Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference in San Francisco, CA on "Engagement in Risky Behavior by College Athletes."
- Monica Ellis created a docuseries, "Always Have a Plan B." This series uncovers the inevitable aftermath that unfolds when things don't go as planned in sports. This series was co-created by two former student-athletes who currently serve as professional social workers in Los Angeles, California. The 'Always Have A Plan B' team would greatly appreciate you viewing, liking, sharing and subscribing to our hot off the editor's desk updated sizzle reel.
- Matt Moore and Rick Weaver will present at the NAIA Athletic Director Conference in West Palm Beach in April. They will present on boundaries within athletics.
- Danny Bonaventura is teaching a course on sport social work at Lamar University. In addition to his academic advising role with student-athletes, Danny is now the Life Skills Coordinator for student-athletes at Lamar University too.
- Stephanie Rosado was the recipient of the CSWE Minority Fellowship. Please read the article published by USC by clicking [HERE](#).
- Geoff Cushner is delivering a presentation on the importance of mental health as a social justice item both in the classroom and within athletics to 400 high school students, teachers, administrators, and various collegiate personnel in Massachusetts on March 14th.
- Kelli Monedero started working in the athletic department at IUPUI last week doing mental health counseling with student-athletes. No such program exists, so she gets to build the program with the assistance of two interns from the ground up.
- Jim Helling, LICSW delivered a 10-in-10 presentation at the 15th Annual Big Sky Sport Psychology Conference on ACE, Race, and Health Disparities in College Athletics.
- Jim Helling, LICSW is now offering two new weekly workshops for student-athletes through the UMass Athletics Center for Peak Performance and Psychological Wellness. The first is a weekly support, resilience and skills group for injured athletes called Sound Body, Sound Mind. The second workshop, Wise Mind, is a weekly one-hour resource for intercollegiate student-athletes seeking strategies for moving along the resilience continuum toward improved health and performance without use of banned substances.
- Traci Nigg presented about social work in sports to all school social workers in the Wichita Public School district USD259.
- The National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) Annual Conference will be held in Los Angeles next month, March 9-13, 2019. One of the workshops is geared toward student-athletes.
- Warren Clark and Bill Vanderwill are developing a Continuing Education workshop for the University of Michigan School of Social Work regarding Sport Social Work. It's being designed to educate social workers who are interested in learning about this emerging practice area. Sara Driesenga and Kayla Douglas will be guest speakers.
- Bill Vanderwill was presented with an Award of Recognition from the Detroit City Council for his work in the field of Sport Social Work.
- Marlene Holmes will present at Morgan State University on Black female college athletes and intersectionality.

Member Spotlight

Lauren Beasley



Hi y'all! My name is Lauren Beasley. I am an LMSW, and currently in my second semester of my PhD program in sport management at the University of Tennessee. I completed my bachelor's degree at the University of Texas (hook 'em!) and my MSW at the University of San Antonio. I am passionate about bringing the social work perspective into sport management research and into the classroom, exposing sport management students to the importance of the holistic care of athletes.

My career goal is to become full-time faculty in a sport management department because, in the traditional sport world, it is sometimes forgotten that athletes are people who face very real, very human issues. I consider my primary research on these issues to be related to the holistic care of student-athletes. Within holistic care, there are several domains including nutrition, spirituality, academics, and mental health. I approach these issues from two dominant lenses: first, and foremost, from a social work perspective (my professional training), and second from a sport management perspective (my current discipline). From the social work perspective, I practice from a person-in-environment paradigm, considering the micro, mezzo, and macro level influences impacting an athlete to determine where appropriate interventions can be made. From the sport management perspective, I consider what types of policies, professions, and changes can be made organizationally in an athletic department to create these interventions.

Currently, my research is focused broadly on the growing need of mental health professionals in athletic departments, and specifically on the emerging role of social work in college sport. I view this research expanding to the multiple domains of the holistic care paradigm, looking at how athletic departments are actually addressing each of those domains. Ultimately, my research goal is to evaluate the way universities provide holistic care programming to their student-athletes.

ASWIS to Partner with the Student-Athlete Mental Health Initiative (Canada) on a "Huddle Up" Podcast Series

More details about this podcast will be available in the coming weeks. Stay tuned!

For more information please contact us at

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