Welcome to the fourth and final issue for the 2017-2018 academic year of the Research Digest, our e-newsletter designed to bring you exciting research-related news in the School of Human Services. This issue features the research activities and events of the Sport Administration Program.

The purpose of this publication is to share recent research and achievements among research faculty in each program in the School of Human Services. Each issue will feature one of our programs to inform you of the latest research, grants, community partnerships, publications, and program and faculty awards. We have a lot of exciting work happening in our school, and we want to get the word out, so please share the Research Digest with our faculty, students, alumni, and community partners!

Additionally, we want to hear from you! Tell us what you enjoy about the Research Digest and share with us ideas for informing and inspiring you in future issues.

We hope you enjoy this issue of Research Digest!
The American Athletic Conference and UC Athletics honored Dr. Heidi Grappendorf, Associate Professor, with an award for her work with National Girls & Women in Sports Day (NGWSD).

National Girls & Women in Sports Day is celebrated annually around the country to commemorate the achievements of girls and women in athletics. The initiative also aims to promote the continued expansion of opportunities for girls and women to play sports and live physically active lives. Dr. Grappendorf has spearheaded UC’s annual NGWSD event for the past several years to increase awareness of career opportunities in sport to local girls.

The Department of Athletics has partnered with UC’s College of Education, Criminal Justice and Human Services (CECH) and Sport Administration Program to sponsor up to 200 girls in grades K-12 to attend this year’s event free of charge. The event is not only to commemorate NGWSD 2018, but also to educate girls about college degrees in sport administration, as well as careers in the field. Sport administration programs, as well as leadership and management positions in sport, have been traditionally male dominated.

Dr. Grappendorf was presented with her award during halftime of the women’s lacrosse game on March 31, 2018. Learn more about National Girls & Women in Sports Day.

Development and Pilot Testing of the Life After Sports Transition (LAST) Online Course for Graduating Collegiate Student-Athletes. Michael Stellefson (Principal Investigator), Michael Odio (Co-Principal Investigator), Trevor Bopp (Co-Principal Investigator).

Dr. Mike Odio, Assistant Professor, is a member of an inter-university research team that received funding by the American Athletic Conference Research Grant program in March 2018. The objective of this study is to develop and evaluate a new 6-week “Life After Sports Transition (LAST)” online course, which will augment college student-athlete preparation for embracing life after athletics. The project will include studying career transitions of student-athletes and evaluating a course on athlete identity, well-being, and self-reflection and insight.

Drs. Tommy Aicher, Associate Professor, and Leeann Lower from The Ohio State University (Co-Principal Investigators) recently received a $2,500 grant from the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association. The grant supports data collection for a longitudinal investigation measuring the ebbs and flows of motivations and constraints in marathon training and the role of organizational and social support in training and achieving marathon goals. A secondary aim of the investigation is to evaluate the runners’ perceptions and use of park space (e.g., running trails) during their training activities. Data were collected over the past four months, concluding one week after the Flying Pig Marathon, which was held the first weekend in May.
Meet the Research Faculty

**Thomas J. Aicher, PhD**, is an Associate Professor in the Sport Administration Program. After earning a BS in Marketing Management from Virginia Tech, Dr. Aicher began his sport career in minor league baseball working for the Salem Avalanche (now Red Sox) and Durham Bulls. He transitioned into working with Sport Management Worldwide in player representation and with 1st & 10 Marketing in event management. After several years in the industry, he returned to college earning his MS in Kinesiology with an emphasis in Sport Management and his PhD in Kinesiology with an emphasis in Sport Management from Texas A&M University. His research interests center on the consumer behavior of endurance athletes and the impact of participatory events on the host community.

To date, Dr. Aicher has published 31 peer-reviewed journal articles and presented his research over 60 times at national and international conferences. He is the lead editor of *Sport Facility and Event Management*, which is currently producing its second edition. He recently received a grant from the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association to study the role of running clubs on the behaviors and performance of runners and the use of public space during their training activities.

In 2017, Dr. Aicher began serving his three-year term as Co-Editor of the *Journal of Issues in Intercollegiate Athletics*. In addition, he serves on the editorial boards for the *Journal for the Study of Sports and Athletes in Education*, *International Journal of Sport Management, Recreation, and Tourism*, and the *Applied Research in Coaching and Athletics Annual*, while serving as a guest reviewer for several other journal publications. From 2015 – 2017, he served as a member-at-large for the North American Society for Sport Management, the leading academic organization in sport.

At this year’s Sport Event and Venues for Tomorrow Conference, Dr. Aicher and his colleague, Dr. Brianna Newland from the University of Delaware, received the Best Research Paper 2018 award. Their research evaluated endurance sport participants’ (e.g., runners, cyclists, and triathletes) selection of event and destination elements based on their internal push motivations. This conference brings together sport and entertainment industry leaders, students, and educators of future leaders of our industry to discuss and analyze the sport, entertainment, and venues industry of tomorrow.

**Selected Publications:**


**Alicia Cintron, PhD**, is an Assistant Professor in the Sport Administration Program. She graduated with a PhD in Educational Leadership, Evaluation, and Organizational Development with a specialization in Sport Administration from the University of Louisville. She also received her Master’s in Sport Administration from the University of Louisville, and her bachelor’s degree in Sport Management from Old Dominion University. Her research focuses on professional sport facility development and urban planning. Her secondary research line
focuses on issues surrounding diverse populations in sport. She has presented her research at the annual conferences for the North American Society of Sport Management as well as the Sport and Recreation Law Association. Dr. Cintron is also a member of the Black Faculty Association and Latino Faculty Association at UC.

**Selected Publications**


**Dr. Heidi Grappendorf, PhD,** is the Program Coordinator and an Associate Professor in the Sport Administration Program. She received her undergraduate degree from Dana College, her Master's degree from the University of Northern Colorado, and her PhD from the University of New Mexico. Her research interests include how gender role conflict affects women's careers in the management and leadership of sport organizations, women's career progression, and the overall underrepresentation of women and diversity in sport. Dr. Grappendorf has over 40 publications and 70 national and international presentations. Dr. Grappendorf serves as an associate editor for the *Global Sport Business Journal*, and is currently on the editorial boards of the *Journal of Intercollegiate Sport*, and *Journal of Contemporary Athletics*.

Dr. Grappendorf is a founding member of Women in North American Society for Sport Management (NASSM) and has served as their President since 2004. Dr. Grappendorf was named NASSM's Diversity Award Winner for 2015 for her commitment and passion related to diversity in sport management. In 2018, the American Athletic Conference and UC Athletics gave her an award for her work related to National Girls & Women in Sports Day. Dr. Grappendorf has also participated in and co-chaired the NASSM Diversity Committee, served as the Vice President of Research for the National Association of Girls and Women in Sport, and chaired the Council on the Status of Women and the Association for Women Faculty.

**Selected Publications:**


Michael Odio, PhD, is an Assistant Professor in the Sport Administration Program. His BS and PhD in Sport Management are from the University of Florida and his MS in Physical Education-Sport Management is from Florida International University. His research focus spans three related areas: (a) internships and experiential learning in sport management, (b) nonstandard labor (e.g., part-time and temporary workers, interns, volunteers), and (c) career development in sport. Common themes include studying the unique aspects of work in facility and event management, career entry and transitions in sport, and precarious employment. Recently, he was part of a project funded by the American Athletic Conference Research Grant program titled Development and Pilot Testing of the Life After Sports Transition (LAST) Online Course for Graduating Collegiate Student-Athletes.

Drawing from management, education, and career development literature, Michael has published in a variety of journals including Sport Management Education Journal, Personnel Psychology, the International Journal of Sport Management, and the International Journal of Event and Festival Management. He also recently completed a term on the editorial board for the Sport Management Education Journal.

Selected Publications:


Jason Simmons, PhD, is an Assistant Professor in the Sport Administration Program. He earned his PhD in Educational Leadership and Organizational Development with a concentration in Sport Administration from the University of Louisville in 2011. He also received his MS in Sport Administration from the University of Louisville and has a BA in History with a minor in Psychology from the University of Nevada. Dr. Simmons has been at UC since 2014.

His research centers on sport consumer behavior, with a specific focus on inter-role conflict between sport fan/participant and family roles, as well as constraints to sport consumption. In 2017, he partnered with the National Association of Collegiate Marketers of Athletics (NACMA) on a study to better understand constraints affecting student attendance at college football and men’s basketball games. To date, Dr. Simmons has 18 peer-review publications, has authored or co-authored three textbook chapters, and has given 26 scholarly presentations at academic conferences. Dr. Simmons serves as the Vice President of Student Affairs for the Sport Marketing Association, and is on the editorial board for Case Studies in Sport Management.
Selected Publications:

http://js.sagamorepub.com/jasm/article/view/8179
