Kinesiology Today



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Twins Receive Identical Honor: Being Named AKA Scholars

By Bill Bowman

Scholars, it was not a huge surprise that they were included in this list of high-achieving kinesiology students. What would have been surprising is if one had made it and the other did not.

Identical twins Elise and Ivy Elsbernd just have a knack for doing things in that particular way: identically.

Graduates of South Winneshiek High School in Calmar, Iowa, Elise and Ivy have become two of the top academic performers in the Department of Kinesiology at Iowa State University. Both are in the top 2% of the College of Human Sciences, have received merit scholarships from the College and the Department, and have repeatedly earned the department's "High Scholar" award.

"Elise and I have always been in the kinesiology department together, but in the beginning our specialties were different because I was pre-PA and Elise was pre-PT and also athletic training," Ivy said. "However, shortly after we finished our first year, she decided to pursue physician assistant as well."

"Ivy knew it was a good fit right away," Elise said. "My interest developed more gradually."

In addition to pursuing the same degree, both Elise and Ivy have become certified nurs-







Ivy Elsbernd

ing assistants, have served as "Destination Iowa State" team leaders, and have been peer mentors and received the Exemplary Peer Mentor Award.

"Being a peer mentor has been a real delight," Elise said. "We get to oversee a classroom and see what it takes to bring all the different areas of the program together. It really gives you a real appreciation of the program and the people who put it together."

Both twins have studied Spanish extensively and have volunteered time as translators at a local medical clinic and as tutors on campus. Elise relied on this language skill extensively when she spent summer 2009 studying in Panama. Ivy plans to spend time in Central America during grad school and then again after her program, working in a rural village clinic.

They will both pursue careers as physician's Continue on Page 15

President's Message

Make Sure Your Program is Well Positioned for Surviving—and Thriving

By T. Gilmour Reeve, Louisiana State University



Gilmour Reeve

There is a joke about the elderly gentleman who checks his local newspaper each day to make sure he's not listed in the obituary section. I felt that way recently when I read this headline in *The Chronicle of Higher Education:* "Disappearing Disciplines: Degree Pro-

grams Fight for Their Lives" (see volume *LVI*, number 29, April 2, 2010). My first response was to check the listing of program cuts to ensure the LSU kinesiology degree programs weren't cut. Fortunately, our programs weren't among the recently departed. However, the list does include some "relatives" in programs described as physical education and exercise science (see *When Budget Cuts Loom*, page 5). It's tempting to argue that these program cuts occur because of the difficult economic times. That certainly may be a stimulus, but a more significant factor must determine which programs don't survive while other programs thrive during these times.

The recent Academy Papers (*Quest*, 2010) examined various issues surrounding how kinesiology programs may not only survive but thrive in the current economic and academic environment. This issue of *Kinesiology Today* contains stories about academic programs that have recently been either eliminated or reorganized as a result of the economic downturn (see page 5). These

"It's tempting to argue that these program cuts occur because of the difficult economic times ... but a more significant factor must determine which programs don't survive while other programs thrive during these times."

stories are difficult to read. The need exists for our departmental administrators to understand how their programs are being evaluated and to ensure that their programs are well positioned within their institutions for survival.

Two related columns in the same issue of the *Chronicle* must be mentioned. One column describes why small academic programs are at risk of being cut (see "Having a Multitude of Small Academic Programs is Common—but Risky," page A12). Jerry Thomas, the founding president of AKA, often commented on the fact that larger departments are better and stronger than are small ones. When a discipline has a broad scope, such as kinesiology, there are often discussions that each of the subdisciplines is better served as its

own department or program. This fragmentation creates narrowly focused departments that are unable to adjust to shifts in academic opportunities within the discipline. Such fragmentation creates small departments that are unable to meet the expectations of graduates.

The other article worth reading provides a brief list of factors to consider in determining the value of a program (see "Weighing the Value of a Program," page A11). Of the factors listed, two are (1) the size, breadth, and depth of the program, and (2) the overall impact and "essentiality" to the college's strategic plan. Obviously, fragmented departments lack size, breadth, and depth. But all departments, regardless of size, must be concerned with the overall impact and "essentiality" (or centrality) to the college's strategic plan. Most

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Welcome New AKA Members

Lincoln University, Department of Health,
Physical Education and Recreation
Skidmore College, Department of Health
and Exercise Science
Washburn University, Department of
Kinesiology
University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh,
Department of Kinesiology

For a complete list of AKA members, go to www.americankinesiology.org

News

Too Fat To Fight: Poor Nutrition, Not Lack of Exercise, Cited as Problem in New Report

By Shirl Hoffman

As those with a sense of the history of our field know, it was the embarrassing fitness levels of young people drafted for military service in early 1942 that gave rise to the modern fitness movement and, in many ways, served as a critical stimulus for the development of the field of kinesiology. When nearly half of all draftees were rejected or assigned to noncombat service, a national spotlight was shown on the importance of developing fitness in young people.

Now, more than 60 years later, the Army's Accession Command, the unit responsible for recruiting and the initial training of new Army recruits, is sounding a similar alert. Too Fat to Fight, a report issued this month by the nonprofit group Mission: Readiness, estimates that more than 27% of all Americans 17 to 24 years of age—more than nine million young people—are too heavy to join the military if they wanted to do so. The report points out that "being overweight is now by far the leading medical reason for rejection, and between 1995 and 2008, the proportion of potential recruits who failed their physicals each year because they were overweight rose nearly 70 percent." (The group acknowledges that as many as 35% are rejected for other reasons such as criminal records and lack of a high school diploma.) Every year, more than 1,200 first-term enlistees are discharged because of "weight problems," costing the military more than \$60 million a year to recruit and train replacements.

The recommendations offered by the authors deserve the attention of kinesiologists. The report urges Congress to "get the junk food and high calorie beverages out of our schools," increase funding for school lunch programs so that they can deliver healthier, lower-calorie meals, and to support health education efforts to encourage parents and children "to adopt healthier life-long eating and exercise habits." While this might appear to slight exercise in favor of nutrition as a means of controlling weight, comments made later in the report dismiss exercise's importance all together. "It also turns out that lack of exercise is not the primary culprit," reads the report. "Although children and adults exercise less than they should, exercise patterns have not changed dramatically in recent decades while obesity patterns have. What have changed in recent years are the availability and lower prices of food products that are high in sugar, fat, and salt and the increased pressures on families' time." This same tendency to focus on nutrition over exercise is evident in the materials released to date for First Lady Michelle Obama's "Let's Move" initiative designed to attack obesity in children.

Those who teach and do research in kinesiology departments might fairly ask if the importance of physical activity in preventing obesity in children has been shortchanged by the authors of the report. One who thinks this is the case is Bernard (Bob) Gutin, who spent much of his career in



More than 27% of all 17- to 24-year-olds are too heavy to join the military, says a new report.

the pediatrics department at Medical College of Georgia investigating problems related to obesity and exercise in children. He will be debating the exercise vs. nutrition issue in an upcoming article, and I asked him to comment on the report:

Insight

Lessons Learned: Ten Years of On-the-Job Training

By Jane E. Clark, University of Maryland, College Park



Jane Clark

This June, after serving as chair of a kinesiology department for ten years, I am returning to the professorial ranks, and one of my colleagues will be our unit's new chair. To my successor, I leave here my top ten "lessons learned." For those who are already chairs, see

if you agree. Have I forgotten any?

As you look at this list, remember that each of us comes to the chair position with different skill sets and tools in our toolkit. Some of these lessons I learned the hard way, some came from mentors, and others, still, came from the generosity of my colleagues who sought to help me learn the lessons of being a good chair. And admittedly, as I come to the close of my decade as chair, I know there are still a few I am working on. The order is ascending, but at any given time, any lesson could be the first.

10. You are an ambassador for kinesiology to the other academic "countries" of the university. Get out of your office, and get across campus. Build strong relations with your own dean but also with other administrators on campus. Be sure the dean, the provost, and the campus understand your unit, and knows the good works you are doing and how your unit is contributing to the campus. Centrality

is key: Be sure you can and do explain why kinesiology is important to your university.

- 9. You are a cultural anthropologist who must know your departmental "tribes" and their customs and mores. If you think that a kinesiology department is a monolith and everyone thinks as you do, then you are destined to misunderstand your department often. Listen to the different constituencies (by research area, by rank, by gender, by sport, by any classification you can think of) and understand these groups' priorities and expectations.
- 8. Be a "wanderer." Get out of your office (oops, I already said that). Here it is meant as getting out of your office and wandering the halls of your building (or buildings if you are in more than one). Stop by the labs, the faculty and grad student offices, and the lounge. At Maryland, on every Friday morning from 8 to 10, our department sponsors "Good morning, Kinesiology," when everyone is encouraged to drop by for bagels and coffee. Be there—it will surprise you how much you can learn about your unit over a bagel.
- 7. Learn the art of tai chi. One of the best lessons I learned as a department chair was from my tai chi class. In tai chi, which is a martial art, you take a force directed at you and redirect it. You don't push back because that results in the attacker pushing harder at you. A strategy of listening and

- redirecting the arguments of a faculty member can be very disarming to someone who really wants you to push back at them.
- **6. Get the "vision thing."** Chairs are not merely managers. Very quickly you learn that the faculty are looking to you for the "vision thing." They expect that you will take what you learn from the dean, others on campus, and national leaders in our field and help the department find its vision for the future.
- 5. Become a level 5 leader. In his 2001 book, Good to Great, Jim Collins identifies effective leaders as those whose ambition is always directed toward the unit they are leading and not themselves. He calls them "level 5" leaders. If you haven't read his book, do so. There are many lessons here. Quick starting point for this lesson: Remember to say "we" achieved this, not "I" achieved this.
- 4. Learn how to get things done. This lesson is always a work in progress, but take every opportunity to study for the next exam that might be given. Who are the go-to people? What is the process for accomplishing something in your department, college, or university? And who is going to stand in your way? And why? Know the process (procedures), and you will get things done. If you don't, you may be thwarted at every turn.

News

Departments at Iowa, UNLV, and Arizona State Caught in Budget-Cutting Schemes

By Shirl Hoffman

The economic crisis continues to impact kinesiology departments. Recently, two departments that have played important roles in the historic development of kinesiology and physical education have become targets for reorganization or elimination.

At University of Iowa, a 19-member task force charged with evaluating the caliber of its 100 or so graduate programs identified kinesiology—represented by two different departments (Integrative Physiology, and Health and Sport Studies)—along with 12 other programs as warranting "additional evaluation." As of this writing, the final disposition of the departments had not been announced, and department heads have wisely declined to comment on their situations until final decisions have been made.

The economy in Nevada is among the hardest hit in the country. In the last week of April, word reached the Department of Sports Education Leadership at UNLV that the department would be eliminated. Established as a separate unit in a reorganization plan in 2004, the department offers elementary, secondary, K-12, and adaptive licensure tracks in physical education, along with master's and doctoral programs. The department is home to five tenure-track faculty, two in residence, and one visiting professor. It boasted the second highest number of lower-level majors among the departments in the School of

Education, and enrolled 55 master's students and 20 doctoral students in 2009.

Said department chair Monica Lounsbery: "I am in shock—although I knew this was a possibility. We've never really been given the 'whys' for our program's elimination. We did think we would no longer be a department, but given the relative health of the programs offered, we never thought any one would ever recommend that everything be wiped out." Apparently, the Department of Kinesiology and Nutrition Sciences in the School of Allied Health Sciences will go unscathed in the retrenchment.

At Arizona State University, the picture, though still developing, is less clouded. What seems clear is that the kinesiology department—as it has existed over the past several decades—will be eliminated. Over the years, the department has split into three units. Faculty with interests in exercise, health, and wellness formed a separate department in the School of Nursing and Health Innovation some years ago. Physical education pedagogy moved to the School of Education as a graduate program. What remained was a kinesiology department, much like the Department of Integrative Physiology at Iowa, devoted to the study of physical activity with no direct ties to professional application, something given prominent notice on the department's Web site. "Kinesiology is a discipline emphasizing the study

"These recent events
illustrate the potential
impact that financial,
programmatic, and
administrative decisions
can have on kinesiology
programs in a time of
economic stress."

of movement as it relates to physical activity, health and disease prevention, exercise and sport." The department was equally clear on what kinesiology is not: "a discipline emphasizing personal training, fitness instruction, strength and conditioning, health promotion, wellness, spamanagement, team sport coaching, athletic or physical education." This, it should be noted, is a much narrower definition adopted by AKA. The department did advertise its major as appropriate for students seeking careers in other fields such as physical therapy and medicine.

Apparently, no faculty will lose their jobs at ASU. Of the six tenure-track faculty, some probably will move to departments in which they carried joint appointments. There is some behind-the-scenes

News

Kinesiology Growth and Faculty Salaries: Results from an AKA Survey

The AKA is committed to "advocating, coordinating, educating, and serving" the profession. One way it does this is by providing AKA member units with information from national surveys of kinesiology programs. These data can serve department heads, school and college administrators, and faculty in discussions with university decision makers regarding hiring and programmatic decisions. While perhaps not generalizable to all units, the data can be helpful for comparison purposes.

The first of the AKA surveys has been completed under the direction of Jim Morrow at University of North Texas. The full report has been sent to AKA member units. The report consists of multiple descriptive analyses. No individual units or faculty members are identified.

The AKA survey asked questions concerning institution/college/department characteristics; kinesiology enrollment statistics (both undergraduate and graduate); kinesiology major career interests; faculty characteristics; and faculty salaries. Forty-six AKA member units completed the survey. Among the results presented in the full report are:

- There has been significant growth in kinesiology majors for the five years between 2003 and 2008 (50% for undergraduate, 20% for master's, 29% for doctoral students).
- 2. A large majority of current undergradu-

ate kinesiology majors are using their training in kinesiology as preparation for careers in health care (e.g., physical and occupational therapy, physician assistant, medicine) rather than for more traditional careers in physical education teacher/coach professions or fitness leadership.

- 3. The median percentage of female faculty members is 37. The percentage of minority faculty members remains low (median=7%).
- 4. Faculty salaries are presented by rank and type of institution for 645 kinesiology faculty members, including salaries for starting assistant professors for the 2008-2009 academic year. These results should be helpful for administrators and new doctoral graduates seeking employment.

The surveys are crafted so that they are relatively easy to complete and require little time to collect and organize data. The initial survey consisted of 36 questions. There is no cost to departments. As in all survey research, the larger the number of units responding, the more representative the results.

If your unit did not complete the first survey, you are encouraged to engage in future AKA surveys. If you have ideas regarding information that might be collected in future surveys, please

If your unit did not complete the first survey, you are encouraged to engage in future AKA surveys.

forward your ideas to Patty Freedson at psf@kin.umass.edu, chair of the AKA Information Collection/Development Committee. The AKA intends to conduct surveys each year.

The survey results are being made available to all AKA member departments. If your institution is a member of AKA and you have not received a copy of the final report, please contact Shirl Hoffman, AKA executive director, at shoffman@americankinesiology.org.

News

2010 AKA National Scholars Announced

The Board of Directors of the American Kinesiology Association is proud to announce the recipients of the 2010 AKA National Scholar Award for academic excellence and leadership. Awardees were recommended by their respective departments and approved by the AKA Award Selection Committee. Special thanks are extended to those faculty who took the time to nominate students. The records of accomplishment of the nominees were truly impressive.

If your department failed to submit nominees for the 2010 award, we encourage you to do so in 2011. Descriptions of the purpose and selection criteria can be found on the AKA Web site at www.americankinesiology.org.

The awardees are:

- Brogan Bahler, Department of Health and Kinesiology, Purdue University
- Hilary Barnes, Kinesiology Department, San José State University
- Martha Bejarano, Department of Health and Human Performance, Texas State University
- Louis Camacho, Department of Kinesiology, Sport Studies and Physical Education, The College at Brockport—State University of New York
- Mary Alison Childs, Department of Kinesiology, University of North Carolina at Greensboro
- Courtney Chisholm, Department of Kinesiology, Louisiana State University

- Julie Davison, Department of Kinesiology, Health Promotion and Recreation, University of North Texas
- Erin Elizabeth Dolan, Department of Kinesiology and Health Education, The University of Texas at Austin
- Elise Elsbernd, Department of Kinesiology, lowa State University
- Ivy Elsbernd, Department of Kinesiology, Iowa State University
- Jodi Feriod, Department of Kinesiology, William Paterson University
- Robert Leslie Florance, Department of Health and Kinesiology, Texas A&M University
- Abigail Gorman, Department of Kinesiology, Louisiana State University
- John R. Kremer, Department of Kinesiology and Physical Education, Northern Illinois University
- Casey Alexis Lee, Department of Kinesiology and Health Education, The University of Texas at Austin
- Amanda M. Libertine, Department of Kinesiology, University of Massachusetts at Amherst
- Brittney G. Martin, Department of Health and Human Performance, Middle Tennessee State University
- Brittany Channing Noble, School of Kinesiology, University of Michigan

- Rachel Elizabeth Redlien, Physical Education Department, Palm Beach Atlantic University
- Jennifer Rivero, Department of Kinesiology, University of Massachusetts at Amherst
- Jacob Matthew Robinson, Department of Kinesiology, California State University, San Bernardino
- Russell David Rosenberg, Department of Kinesiology, University of Maryland
- Melissa Rudick, Kinesiology Department, San José State University
- Rebecca Scioneaux, Department of Kinesiology, Louisiana State University
- Desirea S. Selitsch, Department of Health and Human Performance, Middle Tennessee State University
- Tyler Surma, Department of Kinesiology and Community Health, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- Hannah Thomas, Department of Kinesiology, Western Illinois University
- Graden Trumble, Division of Kinesiology and Health, University of Wyoming
- Leah Vick, Department of Health and Kinesiology, Texas A&M University
- Laura Elizabeth Vielbig, Department of Kinesiology, Michigan State University

News

Academy to Focus on Kinesiology's Contributions to Society, Meet with AKA Representatives

n his essay published in the last issue of *Kinesiology Today* (available to AKA members at www.americankinesiology.org), Hal Lawson asked: "... what value is added by kinesiology, and why does it matter? Who benefits? And what are the returns on public investments?" He then adds: "An integrated response to these questions provides the core, defining elements in the field's narrative—a powerful, compelling, and unifying statement that encompasses its missions, purposes, responsibilities, and desired outcome."

As if responding on cue, the American Academy for Kinesiology and Physical Education has announced that the title for this year's Academy meeting (October 7-9 at Williamsburg Lodge in Williamsburg, Virginia) will be "Bridging Kinesiology and Society." Past President Bev Ulrich reports that the program will address some (not all) ways in which kinesiology scholarship and research can help solve selected societal problems. The opening session on Thursday evening will include a keynote address by Dr. Yvonne Maddox, deputy

director of the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development and co-chair of the NIH's Public Trust Initiative. Each day of the conference will be devoted to a separate theme. Friday's theme is "Priorities in Physical Education: Education/Skill and/or Health/Fitness." Speakers will include Cathy Ennis and Russ Pate. Saturday's theme is "Multicultural Issues in Physical Activity and Health" and will feature presentations by Wendy Frisby, Deborah Parra-Medina, and Karla Henderson. All sessions will include opportunities for audience interaction. The meetings are open to all, members and nonmembers alike.

Ulrich would like the Academy to be more active in developing position papers and white papers. She has put out the call for volunteers who might be interested in serving on a committee to develop guidelines for such projects. The committee will meet on Friday afternoon (October 8) at the conference to work on a draft of guidelines that will be shared with members

The AAKPE's meeting will address ways in which kinesiology scholarship and research can help solve selected societal problems.

during the Saturday afternoon business meeting. Those who would like to volunteer are encouraged to contact Ulrich directly at bdulrich@umich.edu.

Tentative plans are being made for a joint meeting of Academy and AKA representatives at the Academy meetings in the fall to explore ways the two organizations might complement each other's mission.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Are We Witnessing a Kinesiology Bubble?

By Shirl Hoffman



Shirl Hoffman

We've been through more than our share of bubble popping in recent years: first, the dot-com bubble burst, then the housing bubble, then the stock market bubble. Last May, Joseph Marr Cronin and Howard E. Horton, whose professional credentials put

them in the know, asked readers of *The Chronicle of Higher Education* (May 22, 2009) if higher education might be the next bubble to burst. Citing skyrocketing tuition (four times the rate of inflation and twice that of medical care), a likely decline in high school graduates in the coming years (Vermont is expected to lose 20% of 12th graders eligible for college by 2020), and the increasing availability of alternative forms of education (who hasn't heard about University of Phoenix with its 300,000 students?), they sound an ominous tone: "Only during a critical moment in economic history can one warn of bubbles and suggest that the day of reckoning for higher education is, in fact, drawing near."

For faculty in kinesiology departments where undergraduate enrollments have surged to historic highs, such talk of bubble bursting may seem strangely out of touch. How can we not be gratified with the AKA's recent survey findings showing undergraduate enrollments in kinesiology departments to have increased approximately 50% between 2003 and 2008 (see page 6)? Some departments have told us that kinesiology majors account for as much



An AKA survey shows that most kinesiology majors plan careers in the health field.

as 10 percent of their institution's student body. There is little question that high enrollments have served departments well in the current economic crisis, but it also is true that precisely such amazing trends, usually accompanied by an unquestioned faith that they are irreversible, often precedes the loud "pop" signaling disaster. (Remember Alan Greenspan's warning of "irrational exuberance" in the stock market?) Could the kinesiology enrollment bubble turn out to be as fragile as the dot-com bubble? Perhaps it could, and not merely for the reasons outlined by Cronin and Horton.

If the kinesiology enrollment bubble bursts, I suspect it will be related to its primary contributor: the flood of students into our programs who envision careers, not in kinesiology, but in the allied health professions. Results of the AKA survey, backed up by scores of firsthand reports from department chairs, suggest that our enrollments may be surging not so much from an influx of students who want to

"Our enrollments may be surging not so much from an influx of students who want to be physical education teachers, athletic trainers, or sports management specialists, but from those who envision kinesiology as mere stopping places on the way to a degree in an entirely different field."

be physical education teachers, athletic trainers, or sports management specialists, but from those who envision kinesiology as mere stopping places on the way to a degree in an entirely different field. In many cases, these are bright, hard-working, and career-oriented students who are a joy to teach. (More than half of the AKA National Scholars are planning careers in the health professions.) But most are mere sojourners, passing through our departments hoping to make their mark in another field. Their commitment to kinesiology is to its coursework and the prerequisites it offers, not to kinesiology as a field, discipline, or profession.

What this bodes for our field is anybody's guess, but it seems to me to be a potentially dangerous trend. Personally, I wouldn't bet on the longevity of a field

READERS RESPOND

Winner-Take-All Climate Poses Negative Consequences

read with interest Shirl Hoffman's column on coaches' salaries being "out of whack" (February 2010, page 2). There is a genuine falseness to coaches' salaries in that they become self-inflated because of "market forces." But those market forces are often false ones. For example, a coach might threaten to leave to join the professional ranks, but there are only a relatively limited number of professional coaching opportunities. Also, in one sense, why not let people leave? The stadiums will continue to fill, and new coaches will be given opportunities. If a coach truly doesn't want to leave, then

he/she wouldn't leave. At the elite levels, these folks are quite well off and can "make do" without additional salary.

I know that coaching at the elite levels takes years of sacrifice and that the fall from the "penthouse to the outhouse" is a fast one. No matter, there is definitely something wrong when a single head coach can earn in one year what others work an entire lifetime for, or what constitutes the annual budget of an entire academic college for the year, or what could fund multiple teams within an athletic department. There are far-reaching, negative economic consequences associated

with such a "winner take all" climate. (For more information, see *The winner-take-all society: Why the few at the top get so much more than the rest of us* by Frank, R.H., & Cook, P.J. 1995. New York: Free Press.)

Brad Cardinal

Department of Nutrition and Exercise Sciences Oregon State University

Kinesiology Today welcomes readers' responses to columns and articles. Please send letters to shoffman@americankinesiology.org.

News

AKA Joins with AAHPERD Research Consortium in Presentation

At the annual meeting of AAHPERD in Indianapolis, AKA joined with the AAHPERD Research Consortium to present an overview of AKA's mission and accomplishments. Jerry Thomas and Jim Morrow gave the PowerPoint presentation, which can be accessed on the AKA Web site or through the following link: http://aahperd.confex.com/aahperd/2010/web-program/Session45456.html

The Research Consortium advances and disseminates research in physical activity and health. It is the coordinating organization within AAHPERD in support of research. The discipline areas represented within the Consortium include biomechanics, dance, exercise physiology and fitness, health, leisure and recreation, measurement and evaluation, motor behavior, pedagogy, physical activity epidemiology, psychology, sociocultural aspects of physical

activity, special populations, sport management and administration, and sports medicine. The primary activities of the Consortium include a fellows program, research grant program, annual convention programming, and publication of the *Research Quarterly for Exercise and Sport* journal. The Consortium has recently added an online researchers' toolkit to its Web content and hosts an ongoing Webinar series. For more information, go to www.aahperd.org/rc.

News

AKA Joins in White House "Let's Move" Campaign

The following letter supporting the "Let's Move" initiative was sent by AKA President Gil Reeve on March 19, 2010.

Melody Barnes

White House Director of the Domestic Policy Council

Let's Move Childhood Obesity Task Force The White House

Dear Ms. Barnes:

The American Kinesiology Association (AKA) is pleased to lend its full support to the Let's Move initiative and the interagency Childhood Obesity Task Force. Kinesiology is the academic discipline which involves the study of physical activity and its impact on health, human performance, society, and quality of life. Our organization represents over 115 kinesiology departments in America's universities and colleges which prepare our country's future leaders in fields related to physical activity and health.

The AKA applauds First Lady Michelle Obama's efforts to form a coalition of community leaders, teachers, doctors, nurses, moms and dads to participate in a nationwide campaign to tackle the challenge of childhood obesity. There is now strong evidence that our children need 60 minutes of moderate or vigorous-intensity physical activity, along with muscle and bone strengthening exercise every day to grow to a healthy weight. Our organization is committed to graduating students who have a sound back-

ground in kinesiology. Our graduates are well prepared to integrate information gained through experiencing physical activity, through professional application, and through multi-dimensional scholarly approaches to the study of physical activity—biological, medical and health-related aspects, psychological, and social-humanistic. They will be a critical phalanx of health professionals in our battle to get America's children moving again.

The AKA is prepared to participate fully in both the Let's Move Initiative and the work of the interagency Childhood Obesity Task Force. We look forward to working closely with you in the future months to help America's children to be physically active, both in and out of school and create new opportunities for families to be moving together.

Please let us know how we can help advance the initiative. Sincerely,

T. Gilmour Reeve, Ph.D.

President, American Kinesiology Association Helen "Bessie" Silverberg Pliner Professor

Chair, Department of Kinesiology

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RESEARCH

Teaching at the Intersection of Ethics and Athletics

By Bill Bowman

t is tough to be a sports fan today and still believe there are athletes with morals.

It's nearly impossible to watch a professional basketball game without witnessing million-dollar players pleading their innocence for even the most violent fouls. And how discouraging is it to open the sports section and read about the hundreds of professional baseball players who duped the public into thinking it was their good old-fashioned work ethic—not steroids and human growth hormone—that powered the record-breaking home run figures over the past 20 years?

Even worse, these are just the athletes who are under the brightest spotlight. In the shadows, there lurks evidence of unethical behavior by athletes at every level of every sport. And volumes could be written on the world of recruiting in college football and basketball alone, where it's the coaches, not young players, routinely bending or breaking the rules to gain an advantage.

Of course, not everyone involved in sports has taken this path. Many coaches, athletes, and administrators strive to take the high road in all their endeavors: playing by the rules, showing good sportsmanship, and keeping an eye out for those who have lost their grasp of these concepts. Among those trying to help is the Center for ETHICS (Ethical Theory and Honor In Competition and Sport) at the University of Idaho.

Known at Idaho as "The Center," this dedicated group "provides study, intervention, outreach, consultation, and leadership in developing and advancing the theory, knowledge and understanding of character education including moral and ethical reasoning, moral development, ethical leadership, and ethical application." In short, the group works to put ethics back into athletics, no matter what issue plagues a particular person, team, or league.

"An ethicist is someone who can give you the pros and cons of a given issue," said Center Director Dr. Sharon Stoll.

"But issues will come and go, and change and continue. What we do and how we approach the issues remain the same."

The Center provides classes, workshops, applied interventions, evaluations, assessments, and consultation, all of which stress character education and its perspectives to any organization, profession, industry, and discipline. It has developed its own course materials, including the teacher text *Sport Ethics: Applications for Fair Play*, the athlete text *Who Says This Is Cheating?*, the student text *Principled Thinking*, the CD-ROM *Performance Enhancing Drug Use*, teacher curriculum materials, teacher methodologies, and computer-assisted teach-



At University of Idaho's Center for ETHICS, student Courtney Bowers and Center Director Sharon Stoll work to put ethics back into athletics.

ing materials.

"I'm really a closet pedagogist, as concerned with education as I am with ethics," Stoll said. "We're trying to make a real difference. We take what an organization sees as their mission and values, then we show them how to teach it.

"A coach will call and say, 'We don't know what to do,'" she said. "For them, it's about the athletes they work with closely, and it's very personal. What we do is not for every coach; it's for those coaches who believe that sport can build character. They believe in the worth of education."

The Center has quietly worked with some big-time programs. It's involved with pro baseball organizations (Atlanta Braves and Kansas City Royals), NCAA

SHORT SHOTS

The Business of Being a Professor, Faculty Salary News, and Grant Productivity Insights

Here are some recent news and research findings from the field.

We Are All Professionals. Writing in the April 9 issue of The Chronicle of Higher Education, Lee Shulman, president emeritus of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, suggests that faculty in the liberal arts might benefit from recognizing that the PhD is a form of professional education. The business of being a professor, says Shulman, entails the kinds of knowledge and practice normally associated with professions: the practice of research, the practice of design and interaction for teaching, the practice of mentoring, the practice of public service, and so on, yet most doctoral programs fail miserably to prepare students for their professional roles. Calling the distinctions typically made between disciplinary training (he doesn't call it this) and professional practice "distracting and dysfunctional," Shulman labels doctoral preparation "a striking example of faith-based education." Calls for accountability and assessment have been directed almost exclusively toward undergraduate programs, leaving the admonition for professional responsibility at the graduate level pretty much ignored. Our practices in doctoral education are a combination of longstanding traditions, replications of how we ourselves were trained, administrative convenience, and profound inertia. We do not subject our programs to the kinds of experimental, skeptical, adventurous innovations and tests that we claim to value in our scholarly work."

Faculty Salaries Stall. The annual report on salaries by the American Association of University Professors carries some discouraging news for university faculty: The average salary of full-time professors increased a mere 1.2%, the lowest increase in the 50-year history of the survey. Average pay for full-time faculty at research institutions was \$91,060; at master's-level institutions, \$70,807; and at baccalaureate colleges, \$67,232. At doctoral institutions, full professors averaged \$125,300; associates, \$83,511; and assistant professors, \$71,485. At master's-level institutions, full professors earned \$91,508; associate professors, \$71,857; and assistant professors, \$60,381. At baccalaureate institutions, full professors earned \$87,013; associate professors, \$67,077; and assistant professors, \$55,495. The highest paid full professors are at Harvard (\$191,200). Average salaries in the Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) category that includes some kinesiology departments ("Parks, Recreation, Leisure and Fitness Studies") were, along with English and the visual and performing arts, the lowest—between \$53,000 and \$80,000. However, the AKA has complained for some time that CIP categories do not accurately classify kinesiology departments, making it difficult to compare salaries across disciplinary lines.

Publication Record Important in Securing Grants, But So is Your Institution. The March/April 2010 issue of *Journal of Higher Education* includes a report by researchers Mir Ali, Partha Bhattacha-

ryya, and Anthony Olejniczak called "The Effects of Scholarly Productivity and Institutional Characteristics on the Distribution of Federal Research Grants," which examined the effects of faculty scholarly productivity and institutional characteristics on the distribution of federally funded research grants. Not surprisingly, they found that faculty with more publications and citations have a greater likelihood of securing competitive research grants than their less prolific peers, but the benefits of having published papers taper off as the number of papers published increases.

An important modulator of the impact of individual productivity was whether or not a faculty member's school is a member of American Association of Universities (AAU) and whether or not it is a public or private institution. All other factors held constant, faculty at both AAU public and private institutions are in a more advantageous position relative to non-AAU members in securing grants. But faculty at private institutions that are members of the AAU are more likely to be awarded larger dollar amounts than faculty at public institutions whether or not they are AAU members. The authors point out that "otherwise equally productive faculties at private universities and AAU member institutions secure more grants (and more grant dollars) than public and non-AAU member institutions. Overall, institutional characteristics play a more significant role in determining the dollar amount of grants than the number of grants."

EVENTS

Upcoming Conferences and Professional Meetings

North American Society for Psychology of Sport and Physical Activity (NASPSPA) Conference

June 10-12, 2010

Hilton El Conquistador Golf and Tennis Resort Tucson, Arizona

For more information: http://www.naspspa.org/
conf/

National Athletic Trainers Association (NATA) Annual Conference

June 22-25, 2010

Pennsylvania Convention Center

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

For more information: http://www.nata.org/Phila-

delphia2010/index.htm

National Strength and Conditioning Association (NSCA) Conference

July 14-17, 2010

Walt Disney World Swan and Dolphin Resort

Orlando, Florida

For more information: www.Nsca-lift.org/Nat-

Con2010

British Association of Sport and Exercise Sciences (BASES) Annual Conference: "Challenging the Dogma"

September 6-8, 2010 University of Glasgow Glasgow, Scotland

Conference will focus on controversial and unresolved issues in the sport and exercise sciences. There is an exciting and diverse program with high-profile, international speakers, diverse symposia, more than 400 opportunities to present your work, and an impressive social program in some of Glasgow's most iconic locations.

For more information: http://www.bases.org.uk/ BASES-Annual-Conference

International Association for the Philosophy of Sport (IAPS) Conference

September 15-19, 2010

Università degli Studi di Roma "Foro Italico" (Italian University of Movement Sciences)

Rome, Italy

For more information: Contact Heather L. Reid, Morningside College, Sioux City, Iowa, at reid@morningside.edu

reid@morningside.edu.

Texas Obesity Research Center 2010 Conference: "Advancing Obesity Research in a New Decade"

November 18-19, 2010

Rockwell Pavilion, MD Anderson Library, University of Houston, Main Campus

Houston, Texas

Keynote Speaker: Michael I. Goran, PhD, Pro-

fessor of Preventive Medicine, Physiology and Biophysics, and Pediatrics

For more information: Contact Pamela Silva at psilva@uh.edu or 713-743-9310, or visit http://grants.hhp.coe.uh.edu/obesity/conference.htm

National Association of Kinesiology and Physical Education in Higher Education (NAKPEHE) Annual Conference

"The QUEST for Significance: A Dialogue of Professional Impact"

at roates@northgeorgia.edu or 706-864-1624

January 5-11, 2011 Hilton Hotel, Walt Disney World Resort Lake Buena Vista, Florida For more information: Contact Richard Oates

Continued from page 1

Twins Receive Identical Honor: Being Named AKA Scholars

assistants, although they will attend different graduate programs. Elise is entering the program at Rosalind Franklin University in North Chicago, while Ivy is headed to the University of Wisconsin at La Crosse.

"When applying for graduate school, it was extremely difficult," Ivy said. "It was important for us to have the admissions committee see us as two different individuals rather than a pair of sisters applying to the same school."

Although they will soon be parting ways, both agree the benefits of being on the same undergraduate track have far outweighed any drawbacks.

"I have enjoyed having many of our classes together because I always have someone there to challenge me to do the best that I can," Ivy said.

That constant challenge has resulted in two stellar academic careers, recognized repeatedly by their many honors at ISU, not to mention a certain award from the American Kinesiology Association.

"The AKA Scholar award is an honor because it's a recognition of all the hard work put in over these last four years," Elise said. "It's a really good way to end our undergrad program and head off to grad school."

For a list of all 2010 AKA National Scholars, see page 7.

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Make Sure Your Program is Well Position for Surviving—and Thriving

academic departments are developing strategic plans. Obviously, these plans must be aligned with the university's mission, vision, and goals. But more critical is that such plans be implemented and regularly assessed to ensure that the department and its programs are supporting the institution's strategic plan and fulfilling its own unique niche within the university.

AKA is committed to supporting our member departments to ensure that the administrators and faculty are well informed and prepared to advance the academic discipline of kinesiology and its many applications. Preliminary planning for the next AKA Leadership Workshop has begun. Although the specific topics have not been finalized, the program will again bring together department chairs, other administrators, and faculty to work collaboratively to address current issues facing our academic departments. The workshop will again be held in Dallas, Texas, from Sunday, January 30, through Tuesday, February 1, 2011. Mark your calendars now to save the date for this workshop.

AKA continues to seek opportunities to work with our affiliate organizations. In March, Jerry Thomas, representing AKA, and I, representing the Research Consortium, presented a session at the Annual AAHPERD Convention in Indianapolis. Dana Brooks, AAHPERD president, had invited us to discuss the AKA and how our organization plans to work with our member departments and affiliate organizations to promote kinesiology, with a specific focus on research in physical activity. In the fall, the AKA Executive Committee plans to

meet with the AAKPE Executive Board to discuss opportunities to expand our collaborations. AKA is interested in pursuing other opportunities with our affiliates as well. If you have suggestions for how AKA might work with a specific professional organization, please contact me at tgreeve@lsu.edu or Shirl Hoffman at shoffman@americankinesiology.org.

A new activity for AKA is our National Scholars Program. This program recognizes our outstanding undergraduate students from our member departments. Students are nominated by their departments, and the nominations are reviewed and recommended by an AKA committee. Our inaugural listing of National Scholars is included in this issue of *Kinesiology Today* (see page 7), and these outstanding students will be highlighted on our Web site. If your institution didn't participate this year, I encourage you to plan now to nominate your best students for this national award.

This issue of *Kinesiology Today* contains other valuable information for our member departments. If you have suggestions for other topics or would like to provide a column for *Kinesiology Today*, please contact Shirl Hoffman at shoffman@americankinesiology.org. Thank you for your continued involvement in AKA.

Finally, this is a reminder to those who haven't yet gotten around to renewing annual memberships. AKA depends on annual dues, not only to maintain the considerable momentum we have generated but to fund new initiatives. AKA is still evolving. Developing new services and implementing advocacy strategies require not only effort but money. If you haven't yet returned your invoice notice from AKA, please do it now.

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Too Fat To Fight: Poor Nutrition, Not Lack of Exercise, Cited as Problem in New Report

"Many studies have tried to determine what aspects of diet (e.g., fat, protein, carbohydrates) explain why some youths become fatter than others. However, recent studies that have measured body fatness rather than body weight have failed to show clear and consistent relations between body fatness and any aspect of diet, with the exception of energy (caloric) intake. Contrary to what most people believe, fatter youths tend to ingest less energy than leaner youths. On the other hand, recent studies that have used objective methods to measure free-living physical activity have clearly shown that youths who do the most activity, especially vigorous activity, have better body composition (less fat and more lean tissue) than youths who do little or no vigorous activity. It appears that vigorous exercise stimulates immature stem cells to differentiate into muscle and bone cells rather than fat cells. The combination of exercise and higher metabolic rate of lean tissue leads the leaner youths to ingest relatively more energy and accompanying nutrients than fatter youths, i.e., they have a relatively high energy throughput, high levels of energy expenditure and energy intake. Thus, to help youths to develop healthy bodies, we need to implement societal policies that encourage vigorous exercise (e.g., sports, dance, running, strength training, calisthenics) rather than policies designed to restrict energy intake. The best way for youths to develop healthy bodies is to engage in vigorous exercise and eat large amounts of nutritious foods. But the exercise comes first and is followed by the improved body composition and the increased capacity for energy and nutrient intake. We certainly do not want people to imply that we want to encourage youths to eat more in order to become leaner."

Gutin's group is not alone in pushing vigorous exercise as a means of controlling obesity in young people. A report by Jonatan Ruiz and co-workers that appeared in the April issue of *Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine* points to exercise as having a profound effect on the FTO gene ("fatso" for short), thought to predispose kids and adults to obesity. Previous studies had shown that very low levels of exercise accentuate the fatgaining effects of the gene, but Ruiz's study was the first to show that regular exercise might actually neutralize its effects in adolescents all together.

Clarifying the critical role that physical activity plays in controlling obesity and ensuring that its importance is reflected in recommendations being written by policy makers in Washington may be worthy of a forceful advocacy campaign by AKA and its affiliates. How AKA might proceed in doing this will be a topic of discussion by the Executive Committee in the weeks ahead. If you have ideas about this or would be willing to participate in such advocacy efforts, contact me at shoffman@americankinesiology.org.

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Lessons Learned: Ten Years of On-the-Job Training

"One of the best lessons
I learned as a department
chair was from my
tai chi class."

- 3. Become a farmer, or at least think like one. "Inch by inch and row by row, gonna make this garden grow," from the children's song by David Mallett, is a perfect chorus for your strategic planning. Till the soil well before planting, fertilize, pick the right crops for the land you have, provide lots of water and sunshine, fertilize again, prune, and reap the benefits of your good farming.
- 2. Become a budget analyst and financial planner. In these economic times, being a budget analyst who deeply understands the department's budget and the budget process is critical. And more importantly, you need to be a financial planner who thinks out all the contingencies and over many years.
- 1. Never surprise them. The best lesson a colleague gave me just as I was about to become chair in 2000: "Never surprise them, Jane." He was right. Every time I got myself in trouble was when I forgot that I was the "chair" of the faculty, not the "boss" of the faculty. The faculty need to think together on a problem and come up with answers. It is not the chair's role to dictate the solutions.

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Departments at Iowa, UNLV, and Arizona State Caught in Budget-Cutting Schemes

talk of the department being reconstituted within a more comprehensive unit recombining exercise and wellness and perhaps physical education pedagogy. The sheer physical distance separating the units (the East campus, where the Exercise and Wellness Department is located, is 15 miles from the Tempe campus) complicates matters. If such plans materialize, this would return the department to the broader, discipline-profession focus it had some years ago.

Beyond the obvious effects of a diminished state budget, it is too early to sort out the factors that contributed to these departments' demise. The Department of Sports Leadership at UNLV may have been vulnerable because of lack of external funding and a rather modest publication record of its faculty. For six years, the department at ASU had been led by a chair who was a good scientist but lacked a degree or background in kinesiology. He has left for another unit on campus. The earlier dispersion of other units to different homes in the university may also have played a part. AKA has consistently pointed out the political liabilities faced by departments that divide into small units. Whether narrowing the mission of the department to a purely disciplinary focus was a contributing factor is anyone's guess. The June 2010 retirement of George Stelmach, the prodigious grant getter of the department, may also have added to the department's vulnerability.

These recent events illustrate the potential impact that financial, programmatic, and admin-

istrative decisions can have on kinesiology programs in a time of economic stress. AKA will continue to monitor events on the national scene. If you have information regarding the effects of budget cuts on your program that you would like to share with colleagues, please contact me at shoffman@americankinesiology.org.

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Are We Witnessing a Kinesiology Bubble?

whose raison d'etre is that it provides foundational experiences for students seeking careers in other fields. The link between careers and educational preparation is a vital one. It creates and sustains the bases for the traditions of departments as well as disciplines, and it plays a crucial role in philanthropy. Furthermore, it seems precarious for kinesiologists to rest easy in an arrangement in which the future and vitality of their discipline may come to depend upon the continued vitality and destiny of another field over which they have little control. When the demand for physical therapists dries up, then what? Rather than taking comfort in burgeoning enrollments that may have more to do with occupational demands in other fields, perhaps it is time to think in creative ways about how our discipline might be linked more directly, and perhaps more solidly, to careers centered in kinesiology.

Readers are invited to respond. Send your comments to me at shoftman@americankinesiology.org.

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Teaching at the Intersection of Ethics and Athletics

Division I football programs (University of Georgia, University of Maryland, University of Alabama, Iowa State University, Virginia Tech University, and Arizona State University), 43 high schools, and other sports programs.

According to The Center's comprehensive Web site at http://www.educ.uidaho.edu/center_for_ethics/, its team has worked with more than 250 research groups, resulting in the largest statistical information base (approximately 80,000 inventories) of the Hahm-Beller Values Choice Inventory in the sport milieu in America on moral reasoning of athletes, from junior high students through the elite level, and Division I-III NCAA. The research base also includes information on professional character development as well as the development of numerous other competitive populations.

"We assess, and through our assessments we've compiled a large database," Stoll said. "The numbers have gotten worse for each athlete group. The numbers have probably gotten worse for the overall population, too, but of course, our numbers don't track that."

Ten of the most substantial findings have been compiled into a list that provides a quick—and sobering—overview of the current landscape of ethics in athletics. Titled "Moral Reasoning in Athlete Populations: A 20-Year Review," the list is exhibited here:

- 1. Athlete populations score significantly lower on moral reasoning inventories than do non-athlete populations.
- 2. Male revenue-producing sport athletes score significantly lower than nonreve-

- nue-producing sport athletes do.
- 3. Females score significantly higher than males, either revenue producing or non-revenue producing.
- 4. Females' scores are dropping, and we predict they will converge with men's scores in five years.
- 5. Longitudinal studies of discrete competitive populations drop over a four-year period whether high school or college.
- 6. Moral reasoning scores of nonintervened athletic populations are decreasing at significant rates.
- 7. The longer one is in athletics, the more affected is one's moral reasoning.
- 8. Intervention programs can have a positive effect on moral reasoning.
- 9. Effective intervention programs have a long-term effect on moral reasoning.
- 10. Moral reasoning is one facet of a highly complex process of moral development.

Some juicy findings lay in this list, to be sure. They are so juicy, in fact, that Stoll says the most useful findings—numbers 8, 9, and 10, which also provide the most reasons for optimism—have been all but overlooked in the media.

"Our numbers show that any population, when put in a competitive environment, will be affected," she said. "We need to intervene. We know that intervention makes a difference."

Despite the downward trend of the overall numbers, The Center's successful intervention programs have resulted in work with organizations beyond sports. These have included such diverse groups as the American Bar Association, the United States Naval Academy, the United States Air Force Academy, the United States Central Intelligence Agency,

the NCAA, NFHSAA, NYSCA, and the College of Veterinary Medicine at Washington State University.

"Our biggest challenge is convincing people to take time to do the intervention," Stoll said. "It's not just a one-time lecture. We have a 30-hour online course, and people have to really want to do it because it does take time. And coaches never have time.

"It's a time-intensive process, and it takes commitment."

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Mission of AKA

Our mission through the American Kinesiology Association is to see kinesiology mature into adulthood as a leading discipline in academe. In doing so, the AKA wants:

- to represent and advocate for kinesiology at academic, governmental, and professional events, both nationally and internationally
- to serve the needs of kinesiology departments (our members)
- to assist all scholarly societies associated with kinesiology
- to facilitate communication among academic departments, scholarly societies, and professional associations affiliated with kinesiology
- encourage cross-disciplinary study in kinesiology as well as cross-disciplinary application of knowledge to problems in the physical activity field
- promote kinesiology in academe and to the public

News

AKA Leadership Workshop Spurs Discussion and Honors

The AKA Leadership Workshop "Strategies for Advancing Kinesiology During Challenging Economic Times" held January 31-February 2 in Dallas, Texas, drew faculty from a range of institutions, from baccalaureate to doctoral granting. Speaker-discussion leaders included Karl Newell, Penn State University; Rob Carlson, Cal State San Bernadino; Patty Freedson, University of Massachusetts: Melinda Solmon and Gil Reeve. Louisiana State University; Wojtek Chodzko-Zajko, University of Illinois; Michael Delp, University of Florida; Jane Clark, University of Maryland; Larry Abraham, John Ivy, and Waneen Spirduso. University of Texas; Kirk Cureton, University of Georgia; Diane Ulibarri, Michigan State University; and Joe Bell, Abilene Christian University.

Topics included "Five Critical Concerns of Department Heads," "How the Economic Downturn is Affecting Kinesiology Departments," "The Department Chair as Bearer of Bad News," "Innovative Strategies for Funding Instructional and Research Programs," "Maintaining and Improving Instruction in a Time of Declining Resources," "Interpreting and Implementing the AKA Core Categories," and "Using Assessment and Accountability to Advance the Department."

At the workshop reception, Jerry Thomas and Roberta Rikli, outgoing president and vice president, were honored for their hard work in getting AKA off to a good start in its first two years of existence. Gil Reeve, incoming president, presented each with a plaque commemorating their service.



Outgoing President Jerry Thomas and outgoing Vice President Roberta Rikli with newly elected President Gil Reeve and Vice President Waneen Spirduso.

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