PRESIDENT’S NOTE >>>
Greetings NAIA Colleagues,

I trust all is going well with your summer vacations and planning for the upcoming fall season. It seems each year that the summer months are condensed more and more and that our business continues year-round. This summer has been no exception, and I wanted to take a moment to update you on some key areas within our association. First and foremost, a sincere thank you goes out to our colleague and past President, Kevin Steele, for his work within our association. Kevin has worked tireless hours on our behalf and our current ADA is much better off due to his hard work. With his transition out of the presidency, Angie Fincannon was supposed to succeed Kevin for the upcoming year. Angie has since taken a job at another institution and, by default, I have succeeded to the presidency.

It's certainly no small task to follow in Kevin’s footsteps, but I am happy to say that I have tremendous support with two new officers as announced at our business meeting at NACDA in Orlando this June. Matt Sayre from Southern Oregon has assumed the role as Vice President. Matt will serve as the liaison with the NAIA to produce our monthly ADA newsletter. We will continue to spotlight several features each month and also have a professional development article for the newsletter. Quin Monahan moves into the role as secretary and will be responsible for the professional development at this year’s NAIA Convention in Kansas City. Quin will need a lot of help with the sessions at Convention, and, again, I encourage you to reach out to Quin and provide your insight to our colleagues by presenting at the Convention.

(Cont. on next page)

UPCOMING EVENTS >>>
Sept. 27 — Dinner Meeting with COP and CCA
Sept. 28 — ADA Board Meeting

MEET DARIN WILSON, NEW ADA PRESIDENT >>>
Director of Athletics at Georgia Gwinnett College
Phone: (678)407-5810 | Email: dswilson@ggc.edu

Dr. Darin S. Wilson established the Office of Athletics at Georgia Gwinnett College in late 2011 with the vision of being one of the nation’s premier programs. Wilson’s devotion to the student-athlete experience has inspired the Grizzlies’ program to develop leaders in character through academic and athletic excellence.

In addition to acting as new President of the ADA, Wilson holds a number of other positions within the NAIA and helps to shape policy at the organization's highest levels. He serves on the NAIA’s National Administrative Council, and he is on the Executive Committee of the Association of Independent Institutions (AII), of which GGC is a member. For his accomplishments, Wilson was selected as the 2010-2011 NAIA National Athletics Director of the Year in the spring of 2012. He was recognized as the AAC Athletic Director of the Year in 2008, 2009 and 2011, the NAIA Region XII Athletic Director of the Year in 2008, and the 2009-10/2014-15 NAIA Under Armour AD of the Year for the Southeast Region by the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NACDA).

Wilson has a master's in education from Union College and a Ph.D. in higher education leadership from Capella University in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Link to full bio

WELCOME NEW ATHLETICS DIRECTORS >>>

Dennis McDonald
Evangel University

Debra Warren
Indiana Tech

Todd Davis
Haskell Indian Nations University
As the summer winds down, take some time to reflect on last year and create your vision for the upcoming year. In doing so, think of some ways that you can impact our organization to help us all grow. We have built some great momentum during the past year, and we all want to continue to build a better ADA, a better NAIA, and a better personal self. Thanks for all that you do for our association and your respective institutions. If there is ever anything I can do to assist you, please do not hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,

Darin Wilson
President, NAIA ADA

RECENT NAIA NEWS

Wilson Announces Retirement as Vanguard AD

KCAC Adds Lacrosse as 2015-16 Championship Sports

Kiki Barnes and Lori Thomas Honored by NACWAA

Six-Year NAIA Ejection Trends

NACDA recognizes NAIA’s 50-year partnership

CAREER CENTER

See your job opportunities posted here today! The NAIA Careers Center features job opportunities within intercollegiate and interscholastic athletics. Attract more qualified candidates and post an ad today!

RESOURCES

ADA Webpage and AD Resources on NAIA.org

The NAIA Athletics Directors Association has its own page on the NAIA website with news, conduct in competition info, explanation of the purpose of ADA and useful links to timelines, sport qualification plans, strategic plans, directories, calendars and other administrative information.

College Sports Info

Visit CollegeSportsInfo.org to access videos, a presentation and script, and handouts that may assist you when you talk to prospective students who are interested in playing sports in college.

The Business of Small College Athletics

Small College Athletic Administrators are a group of hard-working professionals that are committed to providing opportunities for student-athletes to succeed. Created by the NAIA’s own Jim Abbott of Oklahoma City College, this site is dedicated to telling the Small College story, sharing insight from small college professionals and working to make our profession better and stronger. Read the recent interview with Kevin Steele, Mid America Nazarene University Athletics Director and 2014/15 ADA President.

Perspective on Athletics

Perspective on Athletics, by former Willamette University AD, Mark Majeski, is a great online resource for small college athletics. The site strives to provide rich and relevant content that promotes professional growth and development. The site is designed to aggregate news, useful articles and other resources relevant to current or aspiring intercollegiate athletics administrators.

INVolvement Opportunities

MENTORING

The NAIA Athletics Directors Association continues to expand its professional development with the creation of a new ADs mentoring initiative. Lead by Jeff Bain, Athletics Director at Martin Methodist College, seasoned athletics directors are volunteering to work with new ADs as they become involved in NAIA athletics. The new initiative will also offer advice to existing ADs in areas of adding sports and improving facilities. If you are interested in taking part of this initiative, email jbain@MartinMethodist.edu.

NATIONAL INVOLVEMENT

Three ADs will fill roles on NAC subcommittees:

- Conduct & Ethics: Mike McCaffrey (Saint Francis)
- Competitive Experience: Drew Watson (Southeastern)
- Competitive Experience: Jason Horn (Xavier)

COMPETITIVE CHEER & DANCE – ATHLETES NEED TO REGISTER WITH THE EC TODAY

Before their first competition, ALL new NAIA student-athletes must have their initial eligibility determined by the NAIA Eligibility Center. So far, only a small percentage of Competitive Cheer & Dance athletes have registered with the Eligibility Center. The season is quickly approaching, so make sure they register! To learn more about Eligibility Center processes and specifics for how NAIA Competitive Cheer & Dance will be impacted, watch this informational webinar.
COMPETITIVE CHEER & DANCE RULEBOOK >>>
On August 3, 2015, the NAIA National Office released the Official Competitive Cheer & Dance Rulebook. The NAIA is the first national sports association to create and publish a rulebook for Competitive Cheer & Dance. The rulebook outlines the general rules for the sport, such as host requirements, scoring guidelines, and requirements for officials and can be viewed here.

NEW NAIA SPONSORS >>>
Herff Jones is now the official supplier of recognition rings to the NAIA. Herff Jones replaces long-time partner, Jostens. All NAIA licensed jewelry will be done through Herff Jones. To order recognition rings, please contact Steve Arnold at 317-612-3739 or svarnold@herffjones.com.

Krossover Intelligence has been named the official game film exchange and breakdown provider of the NAIA. Krossover will provide teams participating in national championships with the ability to store game films online. Video storage during championships and throughout the season will be available free of charge. For more information on Krossover’s services, contact Tom Gray at 888-339-5395 or tom@krossover.com.

RECOMMENDED READS >>>
- Campbellsville University Athletic staff loses 31-12 softball game to prison inmates, wins big with “More than a Game” gesture: 17 staff members from Campbellsville University visit Northpoint Prison
- Casting Your Shadow, Posted on the Business of Small College Athletics by: Jim Abbott
- Bruce Parker interview: College Athletic Directors Face Daily Challenges, By Joe Kusek | Billings Gazette | April 11, 2015

ADA MISSION >>>
Engage our Athletic Directors with meaningful collaboration, forums and national recognition;
Empower our Athletic Directors in their professional development and leadership roles in the NAIA;
Promote NAIA Athletic Directors’ collective voice on issues affecting membership and college athletics on a national scale.