

Editor's Note

John J. Miller, Editor

J.O. Spengler, Associate Editor

George Jones once asked “Who’s gonna fill their shoes?” in a popular country song. One of the aspects that make an association, such as the Sport and Recreation Law Association (SRLA), strong are the contributions received from student members. In this area, it appears that SRLA, through the *Journal of Legal Aspects of Sport (JLAS)*, is making important strides. For example, in each of the articles within this current issue the primary or secondary author is a doctoral candidate who has had significant academic preparation and practical experiences. The lead author of the first study, “*Tweets and Crumpets: Examining U.K. and U.S. Regulation of Athlete Endorsements and Social Media Marketing*,” is Natasha Brison, who received her J.D. from the University of Georgia Law School and is now pursuing her doctorate in Sport Management at the University of Georgia. It should be noted that Ms. Brison’s article was selected for the 2013 Bernard Patrick Maloy Graduate Student Research Award, which is given to the outstanding graduate student paper in SRLA. Dylan Williams, who is the first author for “*The Taxing Postseason: The Potential Impact of Unrelated Business Income Taxation on College Football Bowl Organizers*,” possesses Certified Public Accountant and Masters of Business Administration degrees. He is presently a doctoral candidate in Sport Management at Louisiana State University. Khalil Lee, the second author for the case study entitled “*An Analysis of Interscholastic Athletic Directors’ Religious Values and Practices on Pregame Prayer in Southeastern United States: A Case Study*,” received his Masters degree in Sport Management from Troy University and is presently pursuing a doctorate in Exercise Sciences from Auburn University. Finally, it is important to mention that in the February 2013 issue of *JLAS*, the first author of one of the original research articles, “*Bicycle Helmet Statutes: An Analysis of State Legislation*,” was John Egberts, who is a doctoral student in Sport Management at the University of Florida and is presently serving as the student representative on the SRLA Board of Directors. Thus, as the reader can see, young researchers from various areas and perspectives are conducting pertinent investigations involving legal aspects of sport.

It has been alleged that higher education institutions are neglecting to develop critical thinking, quantitative reasoning, and research skills in students. However, doctoral students, such as those in this issue who publish first- or second-authored manuscripts before completing his or her dissertation, raise the bar for all other graduate students in higher education as well as established faculty researchers. Moreover, the interdisciplinary backgrounds that each of these young authors brings to *JLAS* epitomizes the broader scope of analysis within the context of legal aspects of sport.

Kudos should also go out to the mentors of the aforementioned young researchers. Mentoring is usually time-consuming and is therefore sometimes avoided by those in academia. However, it can be a vital contributor to a successful academic career for the mentor and protégé. Customarily, mentoring has been described as a top-down process, in which an experienced faculty member directs and supports the progress of students. Within the realm of research, development mentoring programs largely have been designed to fit this traditional definition. These reciprocal partnerships not only benefit the student but the faculty member as well since all members of the academic community have something to teach and learn from each other. Hardy et al. (2001) surmised that “knowledge is not created by the actions of individual researchers but by multiple interactions within research communities” (p. 536). Amis and Silk (2005) furthered this description by stating

... there is a need for a variety of ways of seeing and interpreting in the pursuit of knowledge; the more one applies, the more dimensions and consequences of the field can be illuminated. It is in this sense that we embrace an expansion of knowledge, of ways of seeing and interpreting through engagement with alternative ontological, epistemological, ideological, political, and methodological approaches (p. 361)

Overall, it has been suggested that the faculty members in the Sport and Recreation Law Association are amongst the most helpful and accommodating in the academy. The members of SRLA represent high levels of expertise in sport and recreation pedagogy, health, physical activity, civil rights, sport management, park management, and even obesity prevention, as viewed through a “legal lens.” By mentoring students, the “legal lens” may become wider and provide unique and valuable contributions to the areas of specialty and interest in the future. Perhaps this influx of these published articles are but the tip of the iceberg in attracting and further mentoring other young and talented individuals as members of SRLA and researchers to *JLAS* in the future. The articles appearing in the recent *JLAS* issues may go a long way in answering George Jones’ question.

References

- Amis, J. & Silk, M. (2005). Rupture: Promoting critical and innovative approaches to the study of sport management. *Journal of Sport Management, 19*, 355–366.
- Hardy, C., Phillips, N., & Clegg, S. (2001). Reflexivity in organization and management theory: A study of the production of the research subject. *Human Relations, 54*, 531–560.