



N4A Member Change of Address Form

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President's Report, submitted by Steve McDonnell

It looks like we are starting the New Year with a new vocabulary – APRs, 0 for 2, cut-scores, confidence boundaries, and the magic number – 925. It should be an interesting year!

Members of the executive board met in Dallas January 7-9 to conduct the mid-year executive board meetings. We had a very positive, productive series of meetings during the 2 ½ days. I really felt that there was much cooperation, enthusiasm and support for the direction in which our association is going.

During the meetings, we discussed many issues including plans for our 30th Anniversary National Convention in Raleigh, the new Professional Development Institute (PDI) and future plans for our National Office. We also had the opportunity to visit with Julie Cromer, NCAA Director of Membership Services, to discuss issues of mutual interest including input within the legislative process and involvement in developing an evaluation tool to review student-athlete services on campus. Felicia Martin, Associate Director of the Division IA CHAMPS Program, also visited with us one morning to discuss ways that the N4A and D1A CHAMPS could collaborate on future projects.

Sandy Meyer and I stayed in Dallas to attend the NCAA Legislative Review meetings at the NCAA Convention on Saturday. Although there were not many controversial pieces of legislation this year, we did get some insight into ways the N4A may have more influence in the legislative process for future years.

Much of our discussion during the meetings focused on the future of the N4A National Office. Phil Moses, chair of the Operational Assessment Task Force (OATF), presented some of the preliminary task force findings. We anticipate that we will have a permanent national office and a national executive director hopefully within the next year. However, we intend to maintain the temporary national office at Texas A&M University until the transition to a permanent location with a full-time director actually occurs. The Executive Board agreed to select a consultant to help us through this transition process.

Part of our meetings focused on the collaborative efforts we have developed with many organizations (NCAA, NFL, NBA, NACADA, Houghton-Mifflin, D1A CHAMPS, etc.) We discussed ways that we can enhance these relationships as well as focus on some other groups with whom we may want to develop collaborative relationships.



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President's Report,

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Beth Kidwell provided a Treasurer's Report.

Overall, the N4A is in very good shape financially. The executive board also approved the N4A budget for 2005. Information about the Treasurer's Report and the 2005 budget are available on the intranet portion of the N4A website (www.nfoura.org).

Speaking of the website – if you have visited it lately you will notice that we have made some significant changes. We are constantly trying to provide more information to the membership as well as making the home page and the intranet more user friendly. Shanna O'Glivie, our National Office Coordinator, has many skills when it comes to website development.

We are very fortunate to have her help this year.

I want to thank the chairs of the Research Committee, Adrienne Leslie-Toogood, Kansas State University and Cayce Crenshaw, James Madison University, for their active involvement in developing the N4A Survey that is currently available on the intranet. This survey should provide some very valuable data to our membership. I also want to thank the Life Skills Committee Chair, Julie Steinke, University of Albany, for creating the Life Skills Newsletter that is also available on our website.

We have many members of our executive board, as well as numerous volunteers from our membership, who have taken the initiative to complete important projects and assignments for the N4A. Your efforts are greatly appreciated. I look forward to seeing many of you this spring when I travel to the Region IV and Region III conferences. Hopefully, I will see the rest of you at our national convention in Raleigh. Have a great spring term.

Steve McDonnell

N4A President

Newsletter Editor

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*N4A News is published three times
per year for current members.*

Demetrius

Marlowe,

N4A Past President



It has truly been an honor and privilege to serve the Executive Board and the membership in general over the past two and half years. I learned some unforgettable lessons in leadership

personally and organizationally. I came to realize that the diversity of the N4A is truly its strength, and we need to continue to find effective ways to honor all voices and perspectives. So many individuals have inspired my leadership within N4A, and I would be remiss if I did not express my gratitude to all of you. I would like to personally thank our Past Presidents, especially Rich McGuire, Gayle Hopkins, Ferna Phillips, Karl Mooney, Tom Hill, Fred Stroock, Ron Brown, Jill De Michele, Jack Rivas, Carol Gruber, Curt Flood, and Phil Moses for their support and mentorship. I look forward to supporting President McDonnell and President-Elect Meyer as they gear up for our 30th Anniversary celebration and lead us to new heights.

Speaking of new heights, we will be implementing our first Professional Development Institute (PDI) this year entitled, **Balancing Leadership and Management**. It will take place prior to the Convention on June 7 – June 9, 2005. The institute faculty has been working diligently since September to prepare a very dynamic experience for the participants. You do not want to miss this opportunity. Participants will be selected based on the content of their application. Applications can be found on the N4A website or by contacting Ms. Kim Barger Assistant Athletic Director – UCLA Athletics, at Phone: (310) 206-6263 or at E-Mail: kbarger@athletics.ucla.edu.

Please be mindful to nominate deserving colleagues for the Lan Hewlett Outstanding Academic Advisor Award and the N4A Distinguished Service Award. I wish to thank Roderick Evans, a past recipient of the Service Award and Joe Luckey, a past recipient of the Lan Hewlett Award for coordinating the nomination process for the respective awards. The nomination forms can be found at the N4A website.

I hope to see many of you in Raleigh, and again thank you for allowing me to serve you.

Her influence knows

no bounds

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Current and former students call her home from all over the country and the world, sometimes after midnight. Mary Ann said, "Twinkle always takes the calls, helping them through job applications, pregnancies, divorces. She has been known to skip camping trips with friends if a student needs her."

"She has always been very giving." Mary Ann said. "Maybe too much so." Humble approach

Morton works in monastic surroundings. Her latest office — she has moved several times in her career — is no larger than a double bed, tucked in a warren of academic-support rooms in the building adjacent to McArthur Court. Morton's lone window overlooks a narrow hallway, and in the summer she switches off her table lamp in an effort to keep the room cool.

The nearest bathroom is in Mac Court, so when a late night at work meets a home basketball game, she stands in line with everyone else. Yet to many of her students, Morton is Oregon's most exalted employee.

She hand picks most of her students, gravitating toward the ones with low test scores, but many more go to Morton for help. She packs her day with one-on-one appointments, ignoring her ringing phone when a student is in the room. She reads the books her students are reading so she can hold well-informed discussions. One of her students is deaf, so she is learning sign language.

Dwight Lewis, a former co-worker of Morton's now working at Wake Forest University, said he once went to her exasperated about an athlete uninterested in learning. Sometimes, Morton told Lewis, you have to let go so the student can take over. Lewis let up, and the student started studying.

Morton makes people feel as though they ask thoughtful questions, pausing a few beats and saying "Hm" before answering. Her language is precise and careful, her smile weary but hopeful.

She seems to anger only when her students are threatened. Morton recalls with scorn the time an Oregon faculty member referred to one of her students as "dumb." Several times, Morton has stood up to coaches who let athletes drop important classes after the athletes had faltered in them.

Morton's credentials — three bachelor's degrees, a master's and a nearly completed Ph.D. — could have earned her a better-paying administrative position by now. But Morton, whom her mother always has called a "Miss Fix-It," stays with her students.

"These lives are really important to me," Morton said. "Too often our society is really messed up in that we only honor people if they're big names or hotshots. And they're just kids. . . . If you lost the race yesterday, I don't care."

When asked when she might leave Oregon, Morton started to say that the current freshman class might be her last. Then she coughed. Her eyes watered, and the words stuck in her throat. An enduring respect

People in Morton's field often are recognized only for scandals such as in the 1990s paper-writing scheme at the University of Minnesota. Morton noted that she does not read books for her students or do their assignments, and she could not recall any coach asking her to do an athlete's work.

"I'm very proud of the athletic department being aware of academic support long before it was mandated," Morton said. Jack Rivas, an academic adviser at UC Santa Barbara who has

known Morton for years, said she has missed the last few conventions for N4A, the national organization of athletic advisers. "It's a hole when she's not there," he said.

Coaches respect Morton as well. Former Oregon receiver Anthony Hartley realized last year that his dream to play pro football had ended. Hartley had played on a team in Casper, Wyo., worked in a grocery-store stockroom and been a night-shift orderly in a psychiatric hospital, assisting and restraining patients.

He needed to finish his college degree to improve his circumstances but could not afford tuition. He had had a chilly relationship with Oregon coach Mike Bellotti and had not spoken to him in four years, Hartley said.

He asked Morton to approach Bellotti about granting a final year of scholarship money so he could finish school. Accompanied by colleague Reggie Jordan, Morton met with Bellotti. Now, Hartley is enrolled at Oregon and plans to pursue a master's in education.

"She made it happen for me," he said. Always in touch A phone-book-thick album in Morton's office holds photos of former students wearing poufy wedding dresses, showing off their children, posing on mountainsides.

"They are all wonderful individuals," she said. "They get lumped together too much." College athletes have changed little during her career, she said, with a few exceptions. They are under more pressure than ever to perform, she said. More football players are leaving school in midyear to plunge into pre-NFL draft workouts. Some women's basketball players are less interested in graduating than in landing on pro teams overseas.

The cheers disappear quickly for most college athletes. But Morton remains in her snug office, ready to listen when they need her.

Wheaton's younger brother was shot and killed in 1997, a victim of mistaken identity. The death so devastated Wheaton that he nearly left the NFL. He soldiered through months of memorials, staying stone-faced and strong for his family. Then he saw Twinkle. And he tumbled open.

"We sat there and we talked, and I cried," Wheaton said. "I cried like a baby."

Rachel Bachman: 503-221-4373;
rachelbachman@news.oregonian.com

Old Photographs Needed!

Calling all you shutter bugs out there! For our 30th anniversary we are putting together a photo montage by the decades. Please look through those photo albums and send me those memories. If you would be so kind to put your name and the date on the back of the photo, I'll see that it is returned to you (unless you don't mind that I keep it!)

Send them to:
Ferna L. Phillips, Ph.D., Director
Learning Resources for Student-Athletes
326 Alumni Stadium
Boston College

140 Commonwealth Avenue • Chestnut Hill, MA 02467

For you computer aficionados, e-mail them but please provide a caption and/or a name and date.

Questions: Call me at 617-552-8533 or e-mail to phillips@bc.edu

Life Skills Committee, submitted by Julie Steinke

Check out the Life Skills Committee website for new information! The website will be updated periodically and now contains the following:

- Life Skills Committee Newsletter (full of ideas and resources);
- Committee Report to the Executive Board;
- Listserv Directions;
- Top 10 List of Life Skills Resources.

As always, the Life Skills Committee is seeking involvement, ideas and programs to highlight from various institutions. If you would like to suggest a program, website or any other resource for review, please contact the committee chair, Julie Steinke, at jsteinke@uamail.albany.edu. We are looking forward to helping everyone "Create a Balance" in Raleigh!

Research Committee Report

Welcome to 2005. I hope that the semester is off to a good start and that you are beginning to gear up for the National conference in June.

The research committee has been very active and we have two areas in which we need your help, the research award and the 2005 Athletic Academic Support Survey.

The **research award** winner will receive \$200 and will be asked to present their research at the National Conference in Raleigh. The deadline for submissions is February 28th and the submission form can be found online at www.rfoura.org. If you are working on your thesis/dissertation or if you are a practitioner completing a research project, we encourage you to apply. Please also pass this information onto any graduate students or professionals that are producing research from which

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When Wilkins got to Oregon he worked with Morton two or three times a weekend, with her guidance, repeated a writing course and improved his grade from a C-minus to an A-minus. Without Morton's help, Wilkins said, "I would not have graduated." A love of learning.

In an early encounter with Oregon quarterback Kellen Clemens, Morton glanced at his feet and said, "Nice boots." Clemens bristled at what appeared to be another knock on his ranching background. He did not yet know Morton — that she would never be little.

"Hey, I'm from Montana," Morton told him. "Nice boots."

Morton, 56, comes from a family of unpretentious learners. Neither her mother nor her father, who raised her in Billings, finished college, but both embraced education. Before he died in 1997, Morton's father was reading the Great Books. When Morton used course words, her mother said they revealed a limited vocabulary.

NCAA Division I

Academic Reform Update

Board of Directors Focuses on Contemporaneous Penalties

Submitted by Julie Cromer, Director of Membership Services, NCAA

The NCAA Division I Board of Directors is marching forward with development of the incentives/disincentives program adopted last year as the second phase of its most recent academic reform efforts. At this year's annual NCAA Convention, the Board focused on the new contemporaneous penalties – the first of two academic-performance related penalty structures intended to encourage better academic performance among Division I student-athletes.

Effective in the 2005-06 academic year, a Division I team with an Academic Progress Rate (APR) score below 925 will be subject to contemporaneous penalties for student-athletes who withdraw from their institutions prior to meeting progress-toward-degree requirements. Student-athletes who have exhausted eligibility are exempt from this one-year financial aid penalty, which prevents coaches from re-awarding the ineligible player's scholarship, and adjustments will be made as needed to account for small squad sizes. Finally, team penalties will be capped each year at approximately 10 percent of the NCAA's maximum team financial aid limit in that sport. For example, a football team may be penalized up to 9 scholarships, a basketball team up to 2 scholarships, and a baseball team up to a total of 1.17 scholarships each year.

The Board identified 925 as the target APR score after reviewing research indicating teams earning an APR

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Sunday, January 23, 2005

Reprinted with permission from Rachel Bachman, The Oregonian

Kenny Wheaton might never have made the interception that beat Washington, which lifted Oregon to the 1995 Rose Bowl and revived the Ducks' football program, if not for a woman named Twinkle.

As she has done with so many other Oregon athletes, Twinkle listened to Wheaton's almost-weekly longings for his Phoenix, Ariz., home. She counseled him through lunch hours, encouraging him in her soft, firm voice but never pressuring him to stay in Eugene.

"We created this bond," Wheaton said. "I didn't tell her, but it was almost like, 'OK, she's gone out on a limb for me. I don't want to let her down.'"

Wheaton ended up with an exalted place in Ducks' history.

of 925 appear to be on track to graduate at a rate of approximately 50 percent, based on the federal government's methodology. In the future, after data collection for the NCAA's Graduation Success Rate (GSR)—a more accurate measure of graduation success that takes into account the academic performance of transfers into and out of the institution—the Board will evaluate the expected GSR for such teams.

The first annual APR reports will be forwarded to Division I institutions in February. These reports will offer team-by-team analysis of APR scores and will identify student-athletes who could have "earned" contemporaneous penalties for their teams had the program been in place this year. This report is designed to be an educational and management tool for institutional administrators and coaches, so that they can understand how the APR works, and they can begin to make adjustments as needed to avoid future penalties. Next year's report, which will include combined APR data from the 2003-04 and 2004-05 academic years, will identify the first class of students whose departures will be penalized (e.g. those student-athletes who withdrew during the 2004-05 academic year prior to meeting progress-toward-degree requirements).

In the coming months, the Board will review recommendations regarding the second, more punitive penalty structure adopted last year—historical penalties. Historical penalties are intended to identify the worst performing teams, or the "habitual offenders" who repeatedly fail to retain and graduate an appropriate number of student-athletes. These penalties, effective in 2006-07, will be determined using a system that evaluates team performance in comparison to all Division I teams, teams within a given sport, and institutional mission. Penalties assessed under the historical penalty structure will be sequential, beginning with a warning phase and continuing to competition bans and loss of NCAA membership.

Twinkle added one more success story to her long list.

By profession, Twinkle Morton is an integrated learning specialist who guides UO's athletes through academic challenges. With 28 years at Oregon, she is one of the nation's longest-tenured employees in academic support for college athletes. But Morton's students say the reach of this understated, unsung woman extends far into their lives, to the places they need her most.

"The day that she leaves the University of Oregon," men's basketball coach Ernie Kent said, "we are going to have a huge, huge, huge void to fill. And I don't know if we can fill it." Impressive results

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Region III Report

Mark These Dates

N4A Region III Meeting "Creating A Balance"

Where: Penn State University

When: April 27-28, 2005

Accommodations: Penn Stater Conference Center and Hotel

Room Rates: \$90 single; \$100 double

Tentative Agenda

Wednesday, April 27

Campus Tours

NCAA Update

N4A Region III Business Meeting

Featured Speaker: Dr. Donald Sheffield

Creamery Ice Cream Break

Student-Athlete Panel: "Creating A Balance: Athletics, Academics, and College Life"

All Sports Museum Tour

Cocktail Reception

Buffer Dinner, Mt. Nittany Lounge, Beaver Stadium

Speaker: Joe Paterno, Head Football Coach

Evening Entertainment On Your Own (Shuttles provided)

Thursday, April 28

Coaches' Panel: "Creating A Balance: Not Athletics vs. Academics"

Supplemental Student-Athlete Services

Sports Psychology, Dr. Dave Yukeison

Counseling and Psychological Services, Dr. Dennis Heitzman

Sports Nutrition, Dr. Kris Clark

Post-Graduate Plans/Scholarships, Dr. Scott Kretchmar, FAR

N4A Region III Wrap Up

Please watch for registration information on the listserv.

Region II Report

We had a terrific Regional Meeting in Louisville, KY on October 10-12, 2005!

53 members in attendance enjoyed a wonderful welcome reception at the Cardinal Stadium on the campus of the University of Louisville. Marvin Mitchell

was our gracious host at the reception which included a breathtaking view of the stadium from on high and food that was delicious and never-ending. Monday

was filled with meetings, panels and highlighted with our featured speaker, Richard Lapchick of the National Consortium for Academics. Our discussion

during the conference centered around the N4A membership, the National Office and the new NCAA Academic Eligibility legislation.

Steve McDonnell was also on hand to give us an update on the numerous

N4A issues and was very informative. We capped off the regional meeting with a visit to Louisville Glassworks Museum and the Jazz Factory.

Most importantly, the members who attended spent much time exchanging ideas, comparing notes, and renewing friendships. A special thanks goes out to

Marvin Mitchell, Christine Jackson and the University of Louisville Academic staff

who helped make the regional meeting a class act! From the "goody" bags to the general welcoming reception, to the planning and financial support of the

regional. You are all a real class act! See everyone next year in Knoxville, TN!

Submitted by

Joan Hopkins, Region Rep

Update from the Two-Year College Committee

It has been an honor and privilege to serve the N4A as chairperson of the Two-Year College Committee these past 20 years. I will be stepping down from this position at the conclusion of the 2005 National Convention. As this position is also a standing position on the Executive Board, I will be stepping down from this as well.

My retirement is scheduled to be effective June 30, 2006. I will attend my final convention in Pittsburgh in 2006 and, hopefully, will see you all in 2007 when the convention comes to the West Coast at South Mountain in Phoenix, Arizona. With a golf course on the property, it will be hard to keep me away!

The Two-Year College Committee is concerned about the make-up of the Two-Year College Relations Committee within the NCAA structure. I have made my feelings regarding this issue known to the Executive Board. As most of you know, we have spent a significant amount of time trying to recruit two-year college academic advisors/counselors for student athletes to join the N4A. For the life of me, I cannot understand why we have not been more successful. The N4A is the lifeline for the two-year college student athlete's successful transition to a four year institution. The Two-Year College Committee, along with the entire N4A membership, plans to continue these recruitment efforts.

Demetrius Marlowe, Steve McDonnell and myself are composing a letter to be sent to the nation's two-

Her influence knows no bounds

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Matt Labounty, a Ducks football player in the late 1980s and early 1990s, said he arrived at Oregon from the San Francisco Bay Area focused mainly on himself and largely unprepared for college. His first paper, he recalled, consisted of one giant paragraph with typos and misspellings, a work so inadequate his professor suggested a transfer to Oregon's most remedial writing course.

Yet, Labounty was determined to graduate. So he met with Morton, a woman with green eyes, a short haircut and sensible shoes, twice a week. They huddled in a windowless room — complete with mousetraps and a leaking sewage pipe — in the basement of Friendly Hall.

Labounty struggled to retain what he read, so Morton started with the basics, pointing out chapter titles and textbook

year colleges regarding our affiliate position within the NCAA, outlining legislation timelines, and encouraging two-year college communities to join the N4A and become part of the Two-Year College Committee so their concerns and voices can be heard as we propose legislation through the N4A.

On a personal note, I cannot begin to express to all of you how professional and helpful you've been when called upon for advice and curriculum, always responding in a timely manner. I appreciate the friendship and guidance I have received through the years from members of the 3C4A, and all of the two-year college advisors/counselors that are current members of the N4A. If this organization is to continue to grow and be inclusive, there must be a grassroots effort to involve everyone to get the message and mission of the N4A not only to the nation's two-year colleges, but to also reach out to high schools, Division II schools and the NAA. The N4A should not be a Division I association only.

Again, it has been a privilege and honor to have been a member and to have served. I hope to see all of you at our 30th anniversary in Raleigh-Durham, North Carolina, June 10-13, 2005. Keep up the good work, and *hit 'em long and straight!*

Evans Roderick, Chair
Two-Year College Committee

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diagrams as clues to themes and meaning. Labounty was self-conscious around fellow students, knowing he should have learned such things long ago, yet Morton never shamed him. Labounty became the first in his family to graduate. After a decade-long NFL career, he lives in Seattle, regularly does volunteer work, has traveled the world and is pursuing a master's degree in education so he can teach high school. He credits Morton with his awakening.

"I'm not over-dramatizing this at all: She basically completely changed my life," Labounty said.

Kenya Wilkins, a point guard in the mid-1990s, also said his arrival at Oregon was an academic shock.

"I came from the inner city where it just blew my mind that the kids in the Eugene area, they get 1,000 and 1,100 on the SAT and they're disappointed."

Wilkins said. "Quite honestly, the requirement to get an athletic scholarship when I came out of high school was 700. And that was a challenge for kids."

Continued on page 6