

EDITOR'S STATEMENT

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The impact you have on our student's lives can never properly be measured. Each advisor, mentor, and director share in the character building of our student athletes of today, and our civic leaders of tomorrow. The images of dedication, work ethic, sincerity and commitment to the enhancement and development of each student athlete's academic growth and moral responsibility are illustrated daily before their eyes by you. Far too often these contributions are overlooked and under appreciated by various administrators within our system of high education, but the labor of love is truly well worth the daily struggles.

Our nation prepares to face an upcoming political divide striving to identify the best candidate for President. Among the candidates, are former college athletes that learned much from teamwork and equally as much from their classwork. Our elected leaders at the national level have long had a glorious athletic history. The role modeling provided to our student athletes today is largely enhanced by your presence, and sometimes by mature peers. Waalkes, et.al., discuss a concept practiced within our athletic environment, "peer helping." The strengths of such ideal practices are outlined within a stellar academic institution. Michael Allen addresses the differences gender plays among hoopsters at the Division I level, while focusing on the impact of team subcultures and the value placed on academics. Etzel and Lantz examined differences in severity and frequency of life-stresses among athletes and non-athletes. College students were surveyed and the findings identified may surprise you. Barbara Meyer provides critical theory to eliminate the perceived conflict; in elaborate detail, the education of student athletes were examined. Lastly, the membership strongly requested the inclusion of Dr. John Gerdy's speech presented at a previous N4A Regional Meeting. Selected members felt his commentary should be shared among all N4A members.

New areas of discussion lay before us. Violence, integrity (personal and professional), ethics, the role of technology in academic support and learning, are but a few topics we must face and examine in the new century. Papers researching advisor experiences are encouraged among the membership, in addition to those investigating the student athletes. This vital support provided for our student athletes will be more apparent through the production and promotion of quantitative and qualitative research to inform our colleagues, and administrators. Only when numbers and results are thoroughly explained can greater support and emphasis be properly placed among academic advisors for athletics.