

College Sport Research Institute

The University of Memphis

309 Roane Fieldhouse

Memphis, TN 38152

<http://coe.memphis.edu/hss/csri.htm>



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Formation of College Sport Research Institute Announced

MEMPHIS, TN--- July 18, 2007 – Recognizing the important cultural position of college sport, a group of prominent college sport researchers today announced the formation of the **College Sport Research Institute (CSRI)** at **The University of Memphis**. According to the institute's director, Dr. Richard M. Southall, CSRI is designed to address a void in research activity related to college sport. The institute's mission is to encourage and support sustained cross-disciplinary, collaborative college-sport research, serve as a consortium for college-sport researchers from across the United States, and disseminate research results to academics, college-sport practitioners, and the general public.

According to Southall, "CSRI will provide sustained opportunities for independent, organized and focused cross-disciplinary research regarding college sport in the United States. Specifically, the College Sport Research Institute is committed to serving as a national clearinghouse for college sports research, and building research capacity that increases the ability of students, faculty, and college-sport practitioners to conduct research regarding issues in college sport."

"In addition to supporting independent critical college sport research, the institute will also be a strong advocate for college athletes' rights and education," Southall noted.

In order to achieve its mission, the College Sport Research Institute will host an annual national conference. The first of these conferences, the ***Issues in College Sport Conference***, will be held **April 16-19, 2008** at the **FedEx Institute of Technology** on the campus of **The University of Memphis**. Leading researchers, practitioners, and college administrators will be invited to attend the conference. In addition to two prominent keynote speakers, and three invited panels, the conference will include two days of juried academic presentations. In order to encourage undergraduate and graduate student participation, a student research competition will be held in conjunction with the conference.

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CSRI will also publish an academic, peer-reviewed journal entitled: *Journal of Issues in Intercollegiate Athletics* (JIIA). Dr. Kevin L. Burke, from East Tennessee State University will serve as editor of JIIA. Members of an Editorial Review Board are being solicited and will be announced shortly.

An advisory committee composed of respected scholars, university administrators, college or university athletic directors, members of the media, present and former college athletes, television and corporate executives, and other individuals involved in college sport is being established. The advisory committee will allow for an open and candid forum for discussion of college sport issues. The composition of the initial advisory committee will be announced in late August.

Researchers and faculty wishing to be affiliated with CSRI are encouraged to apply for "Faculty Affiliate" status. CSRI plans to support Faculty Affiliates' and other researchers' efforts with a research grant program. "We hope to develop strong partnerships with many of the stakeholders in college sport to support such research efforts, but the institute will remain independent of any special interests," Southall commented.

In support of the institute's mission, the College Sport Research Institute Executive Board has the following goals:

1. Create awareness of socio-cultural, economic, and political issues in college sport.
2. Provide a forum for open discussion of relevant issues within the college-sport community.
3. Build relationships within local, regional and national communities to generate funding for independent critical college-sport research.
4. Generate local, regional, and national awareness of the College Sport Research Institute and The University of Memphis as a leader in college-sport research.
5. Educate students, scholars, athletic administrators, college athletes, coaches, and the general public on college-sport issues.

College Sport Research Institute Executive Board:

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