

EDITOR'S STATEMENT

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I am pleased to begin my tenure as journal editor with this issue of the *Academic Athletic Journal*. I would like to acknowledge the ever-diligent work of the editorial board in the review process, and of the authors, as they prepared and revised their manuscripts for publication.

Volume 17, Number 1 of the *Academic Athletic Journal* focuses on three key areas of interest for athletic academic professionals. First, Quarforth, Brewer, Petitpas, Champagne, and Cornelius look at first semester college adjustment issues of student-athletes. The authors look at both the social and sport-related factors and make recommendations for how professionals can facilitate positive adjustment. The second focus of this journal issue is on career development theory, skills, and services as they relate to student-athletes. In article two, Alan Kornspan and Ed Etzel present their work on the career maturity of student-athletes, along with a practical overview of career development suggestions for advisors working with student-athletes in this area. Article three, by Julian North and David Lavalley, discusses an approach taken in the United Kingdom to assess athletes' perceptions of career and education services, as well as the role that advisors play in the lives of student-athletes in this country. This article provides a slightly different perspective of the advising process from that to which most advisors at collegiate institutions in the United States are familiar, while pointing out that the issues brought to them by student-athletes in the United Kingdom are similar to those of collegiate student-athletes in the U.S. Article four brings us work by Shiina, Brewer, Petitpas, and Cornelius as they explore the effect of two types of career workshop interventions on the career self-efficacy of student-athletes. The third focus of this volume is on the coping skills of student-athletes. Miller and Pappas discuss four coping models, and how those may be used while working with student-athletes. They emphasize the mediating role that the athletics advisor plays in assisting student-athletes to cope with life situations and present a goal setting tool for use in problem solving with students.

Finally, in keeping with this year's presidential theme, "Cultivating Leadership and Building Bridges," this editor would like to encourage each N4A member to consider building a bridge between theory and practice, by submitting an article to our professional journal. I cannot think of a better way to show one's leadership than by sharing the knowledge and experiences of the profession with each other.