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The Benefits of Service with the Applied Sport Management Association: Make a Contribution!

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Abstract

The Applied Sport Management Association's Distinguished Service and Mentorship Award was initiated in 2022 as a renaming and repurposing of the ASMA Scholar Lifetime Achievement Award presented from 2009 to 2020. This service and mentorship award recognizes an ASMA member who has exhibited continued, exemplary service to ASMA, who connects sport management research with practitioners in an applied manner, and who demonstrates dedication to students and mentorship within the ASMA. Recipients of this award provide a keynote address to the ASMA membership at the annual conference. The content of this address is published in the Journal of Applied Sport Management, the peer-reviewed journal and official publication of ASMA.

Keywords: peer-reviewing, volunteering, networking

To begin today, I want to thank the Applied Sport Management Association (ASMA) and its Executive Team for the Distinguished Service and Mentorship Award. I am very honored to receive this recognition and to join my predecessors Drs. Adam Love, Jeffrey Peterson, and most importantly Mike Martinez. I can honestly say I would not be here today without the encouragement of Mike Martinez to get involved with ASMA and the hard work he put into helping to organize and preside over the conference previously. I suspect many of you can say the same about your own experiences with Drs. Love and Peterson as well. Subsequently, I'd like to ask you all for a round of applause to recognize those individuals again.

With respect to the Executive Team, it is so great to see so many familiar faces that emanated from my institution, the Louisiana State University (LSU). I am so pleased with the contributions each of you have made to the field in your career thus far. Further, I am excited to see what each of you do in the future moving forward. Any success or recognition I am receiving today, I want you to know that you all also deserve a share.

When I was in the summer between my 8th and 9th grade year, I guess I would say I was a typical lazy teenager. I stayed up late (maybe 2am) and woke up generally just before noon. My dad normally came home from work between 5pm and 6pm and the first thing he would ask me is if "I did anything productive today or if I made a contribution to society." Now, I'm certain my Dad knew the answer was "no" and fortunately he didn't really hassle me but he continued to ask the same questions every day and eventually he planted a seed on why I might be in front of you all now.

My Dad was the best and through his mentoring he got me to realize I should not be afraid of hard work or make excuses to get out of work that should or can be done. I also learned from my Dad that it's important to work hard for yourself and others because the benefits greatly outweigh any temporary setbacks, learning curves, or frustrations. Within this point, I want to briefly talk about providing service and mentorship as my Dad once provided to me. I miss him greatly.

After receiving notice about my nomination and the interest of ASMA in bestowing me the Distinguished Service and Mentorship Award, I took a look over my own CV to reflect on whether I would consider myself a good member of our academic community from a service and mentorship perspective. Am I really doing something productive or making a contribution to society as my Dad used to ask.

Since I started my academic appointment at LSU as a tenure-track assistant professor in 2009, I produced the following notable service markers over the last 15 years:

1. Editorial Review Boards- I served on 11 different boards, research and practice-focused such as the Journal of Applied Sport Management, and received the honor of an Editorship for one journal (i.e., Journal of Issues in Intercollegiate Athletics) and Associate Editor for two others, Sport & Entertainment Review and the Journal of Management History, the latter of which I am still presently serving. Next, over the course of time in my various editor and editorial review board member roles, I counted that I reviewed 497 papers for those journals (not including revise and resubmits).
2. Elsewhere, as an Ad Hoc Reviewer, I provided reviews for another 82 papers across 31 journals.
3. With respect to conferences, that require full paper submissions, such as the various Academy conferences (e.g., Academy of Management, Western Academy of Management, Eastern Acade-

my of Management, and Southern Management Association), I reviewed 106 papers.

4. I also served an abstract reviewer for various conferences such as the ASMA and eventually a section head annually since 2013 for other association meetings.
5. In other capacities, I managed several works-in-progress sessions at various conferences, served as a case study competition judge several times, and participated in the evaluation process of best paper contests and multiple doctoral student paper and presentation competitions.
6. Lastly, I assisted a couple committees with sport-based associations to help develop conference programs and strategic planning initiatives that facilitated marketing and sponsorship sales opportunities.

Now that might sound like a lot of work but I can tell you that I plan to do more as my career continues. Why?... Because of the benefits.

1. First, from a field-level perspective, serving on editorial review boards and agreeing to review papers is an important role many of us must play regardless of your position in teaching or research-focused institutions (Seifried et al., 2020, 2021). I can tell you as formerly an editor and now acting associate editor, it seems to be getting harder to find willing reviewers. We are on the verge of crisis without more commitment to help one another in sport management. Moreover, it is imperative that we each accept the role of reviewer from a developmental and reciprocal learning perspective (Seifried et al., 2020). That approach will help produce the best papers possible for the field. Further, I can absolutely proclaim that you will learn a lot and see your own scholarship and teaching improve in quality and impact whether it be theoretical or practical-focused. I have no doubt that my own scholarship and teaching improved as a result of my willingness to review and to do so from a developmental and reciprocal foundation (Seifried, 2017). The multiplication of reviews and interest in reciprocal learning also provided me opportunities to mimic the best practices of others and offered me plenty of examples to refer to whether I was researching, writing, or teaching.
2. Second, serving conferences or associations is another call I challenge each of you to consider. Review conference calls for papers and programs and ask how you can help (Seifried et al., 2020). We need section heads, session chairs, and judges at ASMA and elsewhere. The associations themselves also need good people like you to step up and serve important roles, whether they be elected positions, ad hoc committees, or temporary volunteer roles. Furthermore, many conferences like ASMA are often willing to listen to innovative ideas you might have to help provide more deliverables for conference attendees (Seifried et al., 2020). Again, in each of these capacities, you have the opportunity to support and advance the field of sport management.
3. Finally, from a personal perspective, agreeing to review papers, serving on editorial review boards, and working for our scholarly and professional associations will provide you with the opportunity to meet and network with others (Seifried et al., 2020). Many of the people you encounter might become colleagues you create long-term relationships with from a scholarly, teaching, or service perspective. Again, I can personally attest that I benefitted from working with so many different people in various roles who I may not have encountered otherwise. As an example, when I was a younger conference attendee, sitting in sessions and asking questions granted me the opportunity

and ultimately invitations to receive advice and formalized mentorship from others that improved my teaching, scholarship, and access to editorial review boards. Next, as a more veteran member of our academic community, serving on editorial boards and conference volunteering provided me the chance to mentor others (i.e., pay forward what I already received). I gave and continue to offer advice on career goals our peers set, friendly-review documents and studies they develop, and even give feedback on presentations they developed. I took a look at the program for the 2025 ASMA Conference and can confidently assert that I have either direct or indirect mentor to mentee relationships with approximately 20 individuals.

Conclusion

In conclusion, each of you have it in you to help one another in the field of sport management through service and mentorship. This will most importantly advance the field but just as critically you will find great personal benefits and satisfaction through engaging in such activities. Your teaching will improve, your research will flourish, and your reputation and legitimacy will continue to advance as you develop relationships and/or a network with others. So the next time you get asked to review a paper for a journal, receive a call from an association to assist abstract or paper review processes and serve in a leadership or committee position, or find yourself getting asked for help by a younger member of our field, I ask you to consider the possible benefits. Hard work has value and ultimately you can avoid being a teenage Chad Seifried.

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