

**Six degrees of collaboration: Creating and maintaining collaborative relationships for successful scholarly productivity as a sport management professor**

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**Research**

**Saturday, May 31, 2008**

**Workshop/Symposium/Forum  
(75-minute)**

**Session 23**

**10:45 AM - 12:00 PM**

**Abstract 186**

In his 2007 Zeigler address, "No One Can Whistle A Symphony: Working Together For Sport Management's Future," Mahony discussed his path to success in scholarship. He explained that his success was directly attributable to collaboration with others in partnership to create, conduct, and report research activity. To support this, he presented an impressive list of those with whom he had worked (Mahony, 2007). Moreover, he stated that collaboration brought many benefits in addition to the observable products of presentations and publications, some of which included, growth and maturity from discussions of ideas and work, appreciation of community within the academy, better ideals of care and cultivation of the profession, enhanced creativity from exposure to diverse scholarship, and development of lasting friendships.

A part of his address carried the message to work together for the future of the profession. In this, there seemed to be a sense of urgency to teach others about collaboration: in fact, he questioned whether we, as academic professionals, do enough to develop and enhance working together for the good of each other and the field as a whole. It is important for the field of sport management, and certainly for the development and proliferation of scholarship, that we, as academicians and scholars, work in partnership toward a common goal of personal and professional enhancement. The significance of this is that through collaboration we can strengthen the quality of sport management faculty and students, and advance the development and dissemination of scholarship.

Moreover, in the field of sport management, a very large percentage of programs have only one or two faculty members. Often, with such small numbers of faculty in a program, they are overwhelmed with all of the administrative responsibilities of the program. Unfortunately, the time required to perform these tasks is typically taken from valuable research time. Likewise, with few faculty members at an institution, the opportunity to collaborate on a common research area may be scant. Because of this, it is especially important to network and develop collaborative projects. It is, therefore, incumbent upon us all to help through the development of a network of collaboration for research opportunities.

Mahony stressed the need for experienced professors and scholars to work with others. However, a review of current published literature as well as presentation topics in past NASSM conferences reveals there has been no attention to collaboration. It is therefore the purpose of this session to begin a dialogue about collaboration networking through the presentation of ideas from some individuals who have been successful at collaboration, and from individuals who are just beginning their career. Specifically, this session will include the following: how to begin networking for collaboration, how to locate others who are interested in collaborating, how to develop and share ideas for collaboration, how to manage the time and work involved in collaboration, and how to recognize and manage the pitfalls and hurdles of collaboration.

In addition, as a secondary but very important purpose of this session, we will put into practice what we are 'preaching': we will provide time during the session for those attending to network with others in attendance, and to discuss their research interests and interest in collaboration. During this time, the presenters will facilitate networking and discussions between individuals and groups with a goal of having many come away with a partnership for scholarly activity for the coming year.

Mahony, D. (2007). No One Can Whistle A Symphony: Working Together For Sport Management's Future. The Dr. Earle Zeigler Award presentation delivered at the annual conference of the North American Society for Sport Management, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, June 2, 2007.