In our pursuit of equitable and quality sport opportunities for all girls and women, NAGWS relies daily on the superior contributions of students, teachers, colleagues, and other professionals. In honor of these individuals, NAGWS sponsors a number of awards that help to encourage and motivate workers in our field. We encourage you to join us in honoring those individuals who continue to make great efforts in the journey toward equality for all girls and women in sport.

Rachel Bryant Award

Doris R. Corbett

Doris R. Corbett is the 2005 NAGWS Rachel Bryant Lecturer. Dr. Corbett received a Bachelor of Science from North Carolina College, a Master of Science Degree from North Carolina Central University and a Doctor of Philosophy degree from the University of Maryland. She has been at Howard University since the fall of 1972 where she is the Director of the Graduate Program in Health, Human Performance, and Leisure Studies, and is an Associate Professor of Sport Studies.

In 1993-1994, Dr. Corbett served as a Congressional Research Fellow at the United States Capitol Historical Society, Washington, DC. In 1994-1995, she served as an Invited Distinguished Visiting Professor at the United States Military Academy at West Point, NY; in 1996, Dr. Corbett was an Invited Distinguished Visiting Professor of Sport Sociology at Nanyang Technological University, National Institute of Education, School of Physical Education, Republic of Singapore; and in January-May, 2000 she served as an Invited Distinguished Visiting Professor at Emporia State University Jones Institute for Educational Excellence, Emporia, Kansas.

Among her many positions of leadership, Dr. Corbett has served as President of AAHPERD (American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance) an organization with a membership of nearly 40,000 at the time of her Presidency; She served two 4-year (1991-1999) terms of office as President of ICHPERSD (The International Council for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, Sport and Dance) which is a world-wide international educational organization represented by more than 145 countries throughout the world with Regional Organizations on each continent. Dr. Corbett served one quadrennial as a member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Sport Commission. In addition, Dr. Corbett served on three Advisory Boards: The Institute for International Sport at the University of Rhode Island, The Northeastern University Center for the Study of Sport in Society, and the Women Sports Foundation.

Dr. Corbett has travelled to over 40 states and delivered more than 150 Keynote Addresses throughout the continental U.S.A.; she has conducted workshops, seminars, or delivered Keynote or main addresses in the Republic of China-Taipei, Taiwan; The Peoples Republic of China-Beijing; London, England; Vancouver, Canada; San Jose, Costa Rica; Guatemala City, Guatemala; Mexico City, Mexico; Conception, Chile; Netanya, Israel; Prague, Czechoslovakia; Seoul, Korea; Limerick, Ireland; Yokohama, Japan; Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; Olympia, Greece; Lausanne, Switzerland; Hong Kong, Republic of Singapore; Sydney, Perth, and Adelaide, Australia; Manila, Philippines; Trinidad/Tobago; Brussels, Belgium; Barcelona, Spain; Jamaica, West Indies; Ecuador; and Cairo, Egypt.

In the area of research and publication, Dr. Corbett has numerous chapter publications and refereed journal articles that address issues of sport and human rights, and ethnic and gender issues in sport. She is the Author/Co-author of two books, and one Monograph: 1) "Outstanding Athletes of Congress" published by the United States Capitol Historical Society, Washington, DC (1997); 2) A Monograph entitled "Social Impact of Distance Learning in Higher Education on Health, Physical Education, and Recreation Students" published by the Jones Institute for Educational Excellence, Emporia State University, Emporia, Kansas (2000); and 3) "Unique Games and Sports Around the World" published by Greenwood Publishing Group, Westport, CT, (2001). Dr. Corbett serves on the scientific review board for the International Journal of Sports Management, The Journal of Negro Education, and the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports (PCPFS) Science Board. We are honored to recognize our 2005 Rachel Bryant Lecturer, Dr. Doris R. Corbett.
Guiding Woman in Sport Award

Angela Ruggiero

As one of the teams playing in the groundbreaking women’s ice hockey competition at the 1998 Nagano, Japan Olympic Games, Angela Ruggiero and her teammates left the ice with gold medals hanging around their necks. Not only did the team upset their favored rival, Canada, but they also won the first Olympic Gold Medal ever awarded in women’s ice hockey.

Angela’s tremendous talent on the ice has brought her numerous recognitions starting in 1997. She was named one of the Top 16 Female Athletes in the World by ESPN.com in 2004, the 2003 USA Women’s Player of the Year, #1 Female Hockey Player in the World by The Hockey News in 2003 as well as the Women’s Top Defender of the 2002 Winter Olympic Games. Ruggiero was a member of the first ever Gold Medal winning women’s ice hockey team at the 1998 Nagano Olympics and won the Silver Medal at the 2002 Olympic Games in Salt Lake City. She also played on the 1997, 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2004 World Championship Silver Medal Teams. And in 2005 she received the Patty Kazmaier Memorial Award for top college player.

Ruggiero made a mark in both the men’s and women’s ice hockey worlds when she became the first female non-goaltender to play in a U.S. men’s professional hockey game. On January 28, 2005 Ruggiero played for the Tulsa Oilers in a Central Hockey League game against the Rio Grande Valley Killer Bees. She played 13:45 minutes, and recorded an assist on the final goal, helping her team win 7-2. She scored yet another first along with her brother, Oiler’s goaltender Bill Ruggiero. Angela and Bill together were the first brother and sister to play in a North American professional ice hockey game.

Off the ice, Ruggiero is the founder and head instructor of the All-American Girls Hockey School located in St. Paul, MN and has been a guest speaker at more than 30 schools and children’s organizations. Her interest in creating safer youth sports experiences and raising funds for charities resulted in the development and launching of TeamsOfAngels.com and MomsTeam.com. Ruggiero graduated Cum Laude from Harvard University in 2004 with a B.A. in Government. There she was voted 4-Time NCAA All-American and 2004 ECAC & IVY League Player of the Year. From 2000-2004 she has held the position of Right to Play Athlete Ambassador.

The Honor Awards

Greta Cohen

Greta Cohen is Professor Emerita of the University of Rhode Island where she held joint appointments in Physical Education and Women’s Studies. During her 36 year tenure at URI, she held a variety of posts, although the underlying theme was her devotion to the role of women in sport and efforts to achieve equality.

While director of dance and artistic director for the URI dance company, she coached the Women’s Fencing Team, leading the team to national ranking and becoming the first women’s team at URI to earn such a distinction.

She hung up the leotards and foil, earned her Doctorate degree in sport sociology, and helped initiate the women’s studies program at URI. As a sport sociologist, her research area focused on women’s sports and equality issues, engaging in numerous political activist ventures, many in conjunction with the developing women’s studies movement on college campuses. She served as consultant to the Institute for International Sport on issues relating to women in sport and lectured at their international symposiums. She was also the editor of the Monograph Series for the Institute. Her publications include one of the first comprehensive textbooks for women’s sports. The text, titled Women in Sports: Issues and Controversies is now in its second edition.

Honors bestowed on Greta for her lifetime commitment to issues relating to equality for women in sport include induction into the New Agenda Women’s Hall of Fame, a Lifetime Achievement Award from her alma mater Boston University, the Woman of the Year Award by the URI Association of Professional & Academic Women, and induction into the University of Rhode Island Athletic Hall of Fame.

Greta retired from URI in 2002 and is now enjoying work as a landscape designer–doing choreography for plants. Life has a way of coming full circle!