Conference Review

The Association for the Advancement of Applied Sport Psychology National Conference
September 27 - October 1, 1995
New Orleans, Louisiana

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Celebration of a Decade

This year more than 500 people met in New Orleans, Louisiana to attend the Association for the Advancement of Applied Sport Psychology (AAASP) National Conference and celebrate its 10th Anniversary. AAASP is an organization dedicated to the issues and concerns pertaining to application of sport psychology principles in three primary areas: (a) Intervention/Performance Enhancement, (b) Social Psychology, and (c) Health Psychology. The conference is a forum for individuals interested in these areas to share their experiences, ideas, and research.

Traditionally, pre-conference festivities, including board and committee meetings, educational workshops, and social events (e.g., golf and tennis tournaments) begin on Monday and Tuesday. The official start of the conference is marked by the Coleman Griffith Lecture on Wednesday evening and followed by the
Opening Reception. Each day, excluding Sunday, the conference begins with a keynote address followed by a full day of lectures, symposiums, workshops, and poster sessions. In the past, the conference sessions have been designed to address specifically one of three topic areas: (a) intervention/performance enhancement, (b) social psychology, or (c) health psychology. This year a more cross-topic approach to the sessions was adopted allowing for greater communication and idea exchange between individuals whose primary emphasis differ. In addition to these events, Saturday evening is reserved for the Presidential Address and Business Meeting which is followed by a banquet and social.

This conference review will first highlight the ideas forwarded in the keynote addresses by Drs. John Silva, Burt Giges, Roy Baumeister, and Charles Yesalia, and the presidential address by Dr. Penny McCullagh. Second, examples of workshops, lectures, and symposiums are listed. Third, election results are reported. This review concludes with information about the 1996 AAASP National Conference and membership information.

Keynote Addresses:

Coleman R. Griffith Lecture

Dr. John Silva, the founding president of AAASP and Professor of Sport Psychology in the Department of Physical Education, Exercise and Sport Science at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, presented the Coleman Griffith Lecture entitled “Profiles of Excellence.” Using Suzuki’s (1984) work on the development of excellence, Dr. Silva defined excellence and profiled individuals in the pursuit of excellence. In so doing, the prerequisites of pursuing excellence were formulated and Dr. Silva concluded with a discussion of why and how the demands involved in the pursuit of excellence often outweigh individual’s will to excel.

Social Psychology Keynote

Dr. Roy Baumeister, Professor of Psychology at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, presented “How