

A Time of Change

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Over the past several months, the *Journal of Intercollegiate Sport* has undergone substantial change. The journal began publication in 2008, and the first issue was a collection of the invited speeches and reactions given at the first Scholarly Colloquium held in January at the NCAA annual convention. The pattern continued uninterrupted for the five years: the talks given at the Scholarly Colloquium in January were published in the June issue of *JIS*. The December issues of *JIS* were a collection of peer reviewed, original scholarship devoted to the study of intercollegiate sport. This issue is the last of that pattern.

Initially the Scholarly Colloquium and the Journal were made possible with the support of then-NCAA President Myles Brand, but at no point did the NCAA own *JIS* or have any editorial control over the Journal. The Forum for the Scholarly Study of Intercollegiate Athletics in Higher Education owned the Journal, and its Board of Directors, all scholars, served as the editorial board. The NCAA did, however, generously fund the Scholarly Colloquium and had purchased many subscriptions to *JIS*. In 2013, NCAA representatives informed the Board that the NCAA had decided to stop funding the Scholarly Colloquium and would not renew any subscriptions to the Journal (Grasgreen, 2013; Wolverton, 2013). Thus, this issue of *JIS* is the end of a chapter; it will likely be the last collection of speeches and reactions from a Scholarly Colloquium.

This separation from the NCAA, however, marks a new and exciting chapter in the life of *JIS*. The Journal's editorial board wanted to continue to publish, and, happily, Human Kinetics, our publisher, was also eager to continue. The Board assigned the rights of ownership (and the risks and rewards associated with that ownership) to Human Kinetics and remained on as the editorial board with control of the content of the Journal. Simply put, *JIS* is now much like many other academic journals.

What will *JIS* look like in the future? We will continue to publish high-quality, scholarly articles examining intercollegiate sport from a variety of disciplinary and cross-disciplinary perspectives. We will also feature special issues focusing on single topics relevant to our audience. The immediate plan is to continue with two issues per year and to continue the mission of the Board:

“To stimulate, encourage, and promote study, research, and writing related to intercollegiate athletics; to demonstrate the relevance of research for reform

efforts in intercollegiate athletics; [and] to support core values of higher education in relationship to intercollegiate sport” (Kretchmar, 2008, p. 5).

Change can be challenging, but it can also bring new opportunities. The entire editorial board and our colleagues at Human Kinetics are excited about this next phase in the continued life of *JIS* and believe that we can fulfill our mission. Thus we look forward to receiving your manuscript submissions and your ideas about themes for special issues.

A review of the articles included in this issue also point to the primacy of change. The topic of this year’s NCAA Scholarly Colloquium, and hence this issue, was Economic Inequalities. While each of the authors provide an analysis and critique of the economic challenges pervasive across the intercollegiate sport landscape, they also identify the need for change—a move from the current policies, structures, and norms that have created an economic system that is likely unsustainable.

In the introductory article, Andrew Zimbalist (2013) provides an historical overview of economic inequalities in intercollegiate sport. He concludes the current economic model is unstable and warrants change. Heather Lawrence (2013) offered a response to Zimbalist, and suggests the current inequalities are the result of various free-market forces. She agrees that changes are needed and offers a concrete solution: the use of Activity-Based Costing. Both authors agree that student athlete success and education should be at the heart of reform efforts.

University administrators pen the next two articles. In the first, John M. Dunn, President of Western Michigan University, brings to light the concept of spending bandwidth, or the range of financial support for member institutions. The presence of wide bandwidths within a given conference means that member schools have different resources to compete, and, perhaps not surprisingly, are more likely to witness NCAA violations among the schools. In the next article, Michael Martin (2013), Chancellor of the Colorado State University System, draws from his experiences leading Louisiana State University to highlight the benefits and perils of big-time college football. He then provides several reform possibilities, including revenue sharing and reducing the number of bowl games. Karen Weaver (2013) provided the response to these two contributions. Focusing on the relationship between the media and intercollegiate sport, she examines impact of intercollegiate athletics on the finances, mission, and outcomes of the broader institutions in which they are housed.

The next two articles focus on financial inequalities at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU’s). In the first, Melvin Johnson (2013), former President of Tennessee State University, provides an overview of the financial inequalities HBCU’s face and how they impact the student athlete experience. He also provides an excellent counter narrative to much of the dialogue related to these disparities. Kenneth Shropshire (2013) offers a response to Johnson’s article and highlights the unique contributions HBCU’s have historically made and continue to make today.

The next set of articles came from a panel focusing on the effects of financial inequalities on the student athlete experience. Jeffrey Orleans (2013) outlines the multiple problems athletic departments face as they seek to finance their activities.

He concludes that financial reforms are needed in order to provide a better student athlete experience. In the next article, Jason Lanter and Billy Hawkins (2013) suggest the financial burden of the athletics enterprise rests primarily with Black athletes, and they question whether this structure is fair and sustainable.

In the final two contributions, the authors examine the impact of financial inequalities on athletic department outcomes. Ellen Staurowsky and colleagues (2013) offer an insightful critique of the program re-structuring that took place at James Madison University. This analysis is particularly insightful given that university administrators suggested Title IX regulations were the impetus for the cuts—a position Staurowsky et al. rightly question. Finally, Stacy Warner and Emily Sparvero (2013) use archival data to examine the relationship between athletic department spending and on-the-field success. They find that, contrary to much of the prevailing wisdom, spending on coaching salaries does not hold a meaningful, consistent association with program success.

Collectively, these articles provide a much-needed critique and analysis of the current economic model of intercollegiate sport. The articles, which come from administrators, practitioners, and academics, all provide a consistent message: the economic model in intercollegiate sport is broken, unsustainable, and in need of repair. Importantly, the authors also offer a number of possible solutions to the dilemma—solutions that provide viable alternatives to the current state of affairs.

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