

NAGWS RACHEL BRYANT LECTURE 2008

NAGWS as a Global Leader:
Renewing the Vision; Expanding the Mission
Chris Shelton
Smith College

SLIDE ONE

Congratulate award winners

Thank NAGWS

Situate ME within this topic and to the dedication

PHYLLIS BLATZ SLIDE (2)

I would like to take the liberty to expand the legacy of this lecture to honor those in NAGWS who have mentored me and would like to dedicate this lecture to one of my first NAGWS mentors, Phyllis Blatz, who died on August 4th, 2007.

PHYLLIS BLATZ DEDICATION

When Phyllis was President of NAGWS in 1977, the Association was in negotiation with the US Olympic Women's Committee and the State Department to receive funding for a project to study women's role in sport and physical education in Latin America and the Caribbean

If NAGWS was selected to carry out the research for this project, it would be a renewed commitment to have an international initiative at a time when there was more than enough work in the national office with rule guides, AIAW issues and declining income. I imagine that an international project was not high on Phyllis' list in her role as President, but she was willing to listen and consider the idea. Lee Morrison introduced me to Phyllis suggesting that Phyl interview me to see if I might be a person she would consider appointing to direct this new international venture. I had just turned 30, was very wet behind the ears and didn't know much about NAGWS.

The “interview” was at a reception where Phyllis took me aside and asked me to talk about my vision for the Project and if I thought I could handle it; She listened intently and told me she would get back to me. As the reception progressed, I watched Phyllis work the room...she was gracious, quick to smile and engaged even the quietest among the group.

As the evening progressed, Phyllis introduced me to Beve Stunden who, was active with the NAGWS guides and was Phyllis’ partner for over 40 years. That was Phyllis, always trying to make connections and expand and improve out network.

That evening changed the course of my life; Phyllis appointed me to be the chair of the Latin American Project and supported me in that role for 10+ years. This was the beginning of a connection to NAGWS that has formed and influenced many of my professional decisions. It was the beginning of a friendship with Phyllis and Beve that has lasted for all these years and it is to Phyllis that I dedicate this lecture.

CAROLE’S QUOTE(3)

My theme this morning is the internationalization of girls and women’s access to physical education and sport. This is a remarkable story, one that is far from being finished. It is a story deeply embedded in the history of the NAGWS—and draws upon the inspiration of our most talented and dedicated leaders. It is also a history in which Rachel Bryant was a key player from the outset and one in which many in this room have made significant and lasting contributions. I want to share some of that history with you, and to celebrate as well, the ongoing contemporary impact of expanded access for girls and women.

Today girls and women's access to sports is deemed a human right and viewed as a key component in the struggle against poverty, illiteracy, fight against HIV-AIDS and violence against women. It has become a central element in efforts to expand education and health to women and their families throughout the developing world. This didn't happen by accident – but rather it has been the result of the concerted efforts of an international circle of women leaders who have lobbied their national governments, international organizations—both the official United Nations and the NGO community to recognize the critical link between physical education, sport participation and women's empowerment.

REB SLIDE(4)

The Rachel Bryant lecture honors a memorable NAGWS Executive Director who served the organization for 21 years from 1950-1971. In 2003, Vivian Acosta gave a wonderful RB lecture about Rachel Elizabeth Bryant and her contributions to NAGWS. At this convention I was reintroduced to Nancy Wardwell who did her doctoral dissertation on Rachel Bryant and we have had several fascinating discussions about RB

[I have drawn on Vivian's research and have spent time researching in the Smith College archives looking at the papers left by Dorothy Ainsworth that reveals much about REB's contributions in the international realm and the long history that NAGWS has with the international community. This begins as a story about two women leaders within the Alliance, Rachel Bryant and Dorothy Ainsworth.]

Today I will present an overview of the rich international legacy that has been part of the NAGWS and internationalization has been a special focus of

my own professional service for 30 years. I would like to begin tradition beginning with the REB/ DSA connection and continuing through my time as Chair of the NAGWS Latin American Project that ended in 1988; I will review the modern women's international sports movement and new initiatives/best practices worldwide for girls and women in sport and physical activity and conclude with areas where I see opportunities for individual and NAGWS involvement.

INTRODUCTION

Pearl S. buck: “ One faces the future with one's past”.

DA and REB Slide (5)

REB AND DA CONNECTION

Many in the room know how important and influential REB was in NAGWS history. Guides, connections to outside organizations, tireless, direct REB served 18 NAGWs Presidents and several AAHPERD presidents including DA. In her RB lecture Vivian Acosta attributes these characteristics to REB: intelligent, thorough, no criticism of anyone, enthusiastic, frank, positive, great skill in human relations, humorous and visionary. Nancy Wardwell and I had an interesting discussion about REB at this convention as she had done her doctoral dissertation on REB and is still in touch with REB's niece.

REB joins the AAHPE staff in 1951 and she wore many hats including being liaison to the Joint Council that DA headed.

SLIDE FIVE:

REB and DA born in the mid west REB in Ohio and DA in Illinois. DA from a privileged background, REB from the farm whose father was an educator, both served abroad during WWII in the Red Cross; they saw the ravages of war.

DA was committed to bringing professional women together to use physical education and sport to reconnect professionals who had been estranged during the war. DA wanted women to share ideas, present best practices, exchange faculty and students. At the Copenhagen meeting of women physical educators in 1949, Dorothy presided and invited Rachel to speak for the USA and the women in attendance decided to form an international organization IAPESGW. (this was before REB worked for GWS) Darlene Kluka They both traveled extensively during their careers, linking professional meetings with side tours to learn about a country.

DA was the privileged one, a Smith College undergraduate who returned to Smith to lead the Physical Education Department with her unwavering philosophical ideas about competition for 30+ years, getting her PhD from Columbia, heir to the John Deer [equipment] fortune, tireless and professional woman, past president of AAHPERD, first President of IAPESGW a prolific writer with resources to have a hired staff to care for her and her home.

EXAMPLES OF THE TASKS DA SENT TO REB:

DA and REB worked together for 10 years. DA directed, REB found ways to get to all of the large and small tasks that moved the Alliance forward internationally.

In **1951** REB writes that she is planning a trip to Springfield College in September to spend time with Ruth Evans and then on to Williamstown to visit her brother. She wanted to work with DA to plan a conference with the Department of Defense and reported that she was working with the Armed Forces Committee and the State Department to get clearance for Mr. Bundy to be a speaker. She also mentions a glitch regarding DA's wish to bring a Brazilian Dance troupe to the US.

By February 1952 DA writes that she wants to convene a panel and is willing to bear the expense for bringing the Army International Office of International Education and others together. She tells REB that the Brazilian dance group continues to be a bit of a problem as their return flight goes only once a week so we (meaning Rachel) will have to make plans for the troupe for a week in Miami!

OVERLOAD

Early in February of 1952, REB writes to DA apologizing for not getting her the proceedings more promptly and states that she is in overload! She says that her correspondence stack is about 6 inches high!

DA writes back thanking REB for the proceedings of the Dept. of Defense event and asking REB to continue as Liaison/Secretary of the Joint Council of AAHPER. DA says that the Joint Council really should be the focal point for the international affairs of the Association. DA will speak to the Board about the necessity for time allotment for RB to do the Joint Council Work.

“It is too important in this day of UNESCO AND THE UNITED NATIONS activities not to have our field represented by our national association. There are already too many individuals who think they are the U.S. and unless our Association provides you with the time to make our Association felt as the leader of our profession in this country in international affairs, we shall certainly be missing the boat. It is hard enough to keep people like McCloy, Steinhaus and Nash in hand because they go out privately and do represent us fairly well, but the world has the impression that it is the American Academy and not AAHPER!”

She goes on to say that she would like to change REB’s title to Secretary General of the Joint Council and recommends that there be a recording secretary (Ethel Sammis) to compile reports. She is trying to persuade REB to stay on as liaison for the Int’ Council.

[REB is still feeling overloaded and Dorothy says in another letter: I am very much disturbed that you have had such a bad time with secretaries. It is bad enough just to be too busy then to lose 5 secretaries is really too much.]

Finally the letter (written on a Sunday), REB says she will stay on and is persuaded to continue:

“ I give in on the secretary business but the Secretary General title is a little too fancy. If you can figure a way of relieving me of the business of taking minutes and getting out proceedings that would be fine, but What kind of secretary gets out of these duties”? Didn’t we start with the idea of a liaison

person? You have me persuaded! Rejects the Sect'y General and stays as liaison,

Among the history making events were:

Youth sport conference in the Connecticut Valley where the recommendations was signed by more than 100 countries then was sent to UNESCO

IOC

IAPESGW

UNESCO. (Could the UN Charter come from the resolution of this conference?)

LAP FICHES SLIDE SIX

THE LATIN AMERICAN/CARIBBEAN PROJECT: EXAMPLE OF BEST PRACTICE

Basic principals of the project:

1959 Rachel Bryant received a letter from D.T. Nelson Metcalf chair of the Committee on Medical Training Services for the USOC requesting names of women trainers who could be recommended for the women's teams at the 1960 Pan Am Games in Chicago. There were no women but this triggered the discussion about easy the women could upgrade their qualifications and the potential role GWS should take in these matters.

1963-69 National Institutes(Hult p 255-256)

**HISTORY OF THE LATIN AMERICAN PROJECT WILL BE
AVAILABLE ON LINE:**

1. Barbados (clinic)
2. Temple,(conference)
3. Venezuela,(conference)
4. Aruba, (clinic)
5. Jamaica,(
6. clinic)
7. Costa Rica,(conference)
8. Guatemala,(conference)

- **The last conference in Guatemala where the Interamerican Association for Girls and Women in Sport was formed to be housed with in ICHPER.**

I imagine that there are several people in the audience who might be a bit nervous right now...will she start telling LAP stories and no I will not but I would like to recognize those in the audience who participated in the clinics and congresses that NAGWS organized. Would you please stand

Especially want to thank Marcia Oxley for coming this year...we met at the first 2 week clinics in Barbados...We met powerful women sport leaders like Marcia, Kathy Harper Hall and Joan Williams who wanted a connection outside of their world. 1978....

Words about these reemphasize that international experience were the pinnacle of career for men in PE. and women were closed out

SLIDE SEVEN

MODERN WOMEN'S SPORT MOVEMENT

UNITED NATIONS WOMEN'S CONFERENCES

NAGWS were part of the first conference in Mexico city with the torch run to Seneca falls then to Houston then to Mexico. THERE WERE NAGWS WOMEN WHO helped TO TRANSITION US FROM SPORT ONLY TO involvement with the international women's movement.

Women's health, literacy, poverty, economic insecurity, and inequality are issues central to the United Nations and Civil Societies working to network and advocate for women around the world.

Regional Association (Slide 8)

African Women and Sport,

Asian Women and Sport

Pan-American Women in sport

Canadian Women in Sport

European

NAGWS

WSF has an international committee

Mathare (slide 9)

ISHRAQ...first video hit button as soon as slide opens)

Martha Brady's question:

How can we measure the specific effect that sport has when within a program that is designed for instance to educate girls about HIV/AIDS?

The WFS and many of our NAGWS scholars have helped provide the answer to this question...sport engages girls as well as boys and in fact contributes to their overall well being so that they are more likely to stay in school, have more confidence etc.

I would like to take a few moments to share programs that use sport to engage girls.

FUGEES (second video hit button as soon as slide opens)

WOMEN 2000 AND BEYOND:

CONCLUSION:

My theme this morning is the internationalization of girls and women's access to physical education and sport. This is a remarkable story, one that is far from being finished. It is a story deeply embedded in the history of the NAGWS—I have shared with you some of NAGWS international history, modern women's sport movement progress and projects, and hope that you will draw upon the inspiration from these as we move forward to renew our international mission.

WOMEN'S SPORT EDUCATION WORLDWIDE

OMMITTED IDEAS:

Women Physical educators in NAGWS expected to sit at the table and to change the shape of the table if necessary. We expected to propose new directions wherever we saw the need. We were elected and had formal and informal leadership roles, were heard and taken seriously and we expected those reactions wherever we went.

Olympic Solidarity Programs –
Jacque Rogge resident of the IOC announced that women would be 45% of participants in Beijing – the highest representation of women yet.

- 16/115 (potential) IOC members are female
- One woman is a commission chair – Anita DeFrantz
- 1/15 on executive committee – Gunilla Lindberg
- 1 woman is a director
- 43% of NOCs have achieved the 2005 target of at least 20% female representation on boards of directors
- >50% of International Federations have achieved the 2005 target of at least 20%.

1. Athlete scholarships:

- 1/3 of scholarships for Beijing 2008 go to women –Team support grants –
- 40% to women's teams (45 teams supported in total)
- 12% of coach's scholarship holders are women – *WHY?* – They say they do not receive a very large number of applicants. Generally they do not award more than one scholarship per year per NOC.

Where there is need there is opportunity and internationally there is great need for women to.....

[National Sport Institutes did they influence the Latin American Project:

Same activist tactic culture of wanting to grow our sport internationally

ECS and SBA

To be accepted you had to make a pledge to do multiple clinics

Were there decades of delay before these tactics moved into the PE and women's sport movement]

- NAGWS USIS funded
- Phyllis Blatz was President, Helen "Susie" Knierem was Interim Executive Director and Lee Morrison was the past President. Gary Gephard, of the partners of the Americas joined the group; Herb Rathner was our contact with the State Department.
- Wanted to qualify women to be selected for international sport leadership
- Chris Shelton, Gary and Susie were sent to study the interest in Women's sports in the region. They attended the World University Games in Mexico City, the PanAmerican Games in Puerto Rico and an International Conference of the Partners of the Americas in Guatemala City. Results implied that there was some interest in Guatemala, Costa Rica, Venezuela to women's bodies better for men; Mexico was more interested than most other countries interviewed. NAGWS leaders were ready to do a bold frontline direct offensive to get women the experience they needed. Often, what is the fair and the right thing to do is not what those in Power choose to do...women were not being selected for positions as leaders on international delegations.

- Darlene May supported by NAGWS to be an international official.
- Results from the study suggested that conferences and clinics would be important. Collaboration with NASPE, NDA and NAGWS in the lead. Barbados: Sharon Taylor, Field Hockey, George? Basketball, Holly ? Sports Medicine
- Dorothy Richey, T & F Barbara Viera, Volleyball

Dick Pound Quote from Montreal conference, May 2002:

It is no longer our job to convince men that women can do sport, rather our job is to convince women to take a larger role”

<http://www.bgsu.edu/departments/wmst/womenandsport.htm>