

BlazeNotes

January 2010

BlazeNotes is a monthly publication of the BlazeSports Institute for Applied Science (BIAS) designed to provide new and emerging information on disability sport, physical activity and healthy lifestyles.

Submit your success stories, resources, and trainings for next month's newsletter by February 19, 2010. Send to jjones@blazesports.org

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For more information on conference sessions, the conference center and hotel, the Disability Sports Certification Program and to register click on the link below:

<http://www.blazesports.org/EducationAndTraining/AnnualConference.html>

Scott Blackmun Named USOC Chief Executive Officer

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. – The U.S. Olympic Committee (USOC) named **Scott Blackmun**, a prominent sports executive and former USOC leader, as Chief Executive Officer today. Blackmun will be introduced to the USOC staff, National Governing Body (NGB) leaders and media on January 6, 2010, during an announcement in Colorado Springs.

Blackmun returns to the USOC where he previously spent three years, including serving as acting Chief Executive Officer from November 2000 - October 2001. He first joined the USOC in September 1998 as General Counsel and Director of Legal Affairs, and in 2000, he moved into the role of Senior Managing Director where he was responsible for sport operations and resource allocation to NGBs and athletes.

“We are pleased to introduce Scott as our new CEO and to welcome him back to the USOC,” USOC Chairman **Larry Probst** said. “With a deep understanding of the Olympic Movement, established relationships in the Olympic Family and a strong commitment to the community of Colorado Springs, we know he will move seamlessly into the role and be ready to represent the USOC as we head into the Vancouver Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.”

2010 Paralympic Winter Games - Less Than 50 Days to Go!

Follow Team USA in Vancouver!

You can now [sign-up to receive daily e-mail updates about Team USA from the 2010 Paralympic Winter Games](#) in Vancouver. Daily updates will include all the latest news, photos and behind-the-scenes video access you can only get directly from U.S. Paralympics. You must sign-up specifically for these updates, even if you already receive e-mails from U.S. Paralympics.

Matrix Theatre Company readies its newest Hero Puppet, ADA pioneer Justin Dart



(Justin Dart.)

Matrix Theatre Company is creating a new Giant Hero Puppet to memorialize Justin Dart, the disability rights activist who advanced the cause of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The ADA became law in July 1990, and the hero puppet will be ready to mark the act's 20th anniversary.

Matrix's newest creation will also be paraded during events planned for the U.S. Social Forum to be held June 22 - 26, 2010 in Detroit. The U.S. Social Forum is a movement-building process bringing people together to solve the global economic and ecological crises. Following its debut at the USSF, the puppet will be headed to Chicago to appear in the Seventh Annual Disability Pride Parade on July 24, 2010.

<http://matrixtheatre.blogspot.com/2009/12/matrix-theatre-company-readies-its.html>

"The notion that any one person is the single cause of any significant social change - that Abraham Lincoln alone freed the slaves - is a devastating stereotype which robs individuals of responsibility and credit, and actually inhibits social change. You can be a revolution of one. In your living room, in your family, in your community," said Dart, when the 10th anniversary of the ADA was marked by the Smithsonian Museum of American History.

Haiti Relief Efforts Related to People with Disabilities

The US International Council on Disability launched a new feature on their home page at www.USICD.org devoted to the Haitian relief effort. This web page will be updated with news items and announcements related to assisting Haitians with disabilities.

Citizen's Medal – Call for Public Nominations

For over 40 years, the President of the United States has awarded the Citizens Medal -- the second highest civilian honor in our nation -- to Americans who have "performed exemplary deeds of service for their country or their fellow citizens."

Now for the 2010 Citizen's Medal, the White House is opening up the process to include an exciting source of nominations: you. President Obama is inviting the American public to nominate candidates he should consider for the Presidential Citizens Medal -- truly making this an honor of, by, and for the American people. We encourage you to get the word out about this and submit nominees with disabilities.

This year, the President will be looking for several qualities in the special few he honors: people who have demonstrated a commitment to service in their own community or in communities farther from home; who have helped their country or their fellow citizens through one or more extraordinary acts; whose service relates to a long-term or persistent problem; or whose service has had a sustained impact on others' lives and provided inspiration for others to serve.

The White House is only planning to keep the nominations process open for one week. So don't miss your chance to recognize someone amazing from your community.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/citizensmedal/?e=26&ref=text2>

Paralympian Patrick Byrne Inducted into Illinois Hockey Hall of Fame

By Linda Mastandrea

Linda is an [Abilities Expo Ambassador](#), a Paralympian in wheelchair track and a Chicago-based attorney whose practice focuses on disability law and advocacy. Photo provided by RIC Wirtz Sports program.

Congratulations to 2002 gold medalist and Paralympian Patrick Byrne, the first sled hockey player to be inducted into the Illinois Hockey Hall of Fame. He will be honored along with other inductees in a ceremony to be held January 31, 2010.

Byrne is thrilled at his selection. “It’s fantastic!” he says. “To be in the company of great players like Stan Mikita, Chris Chelios and Eddie Olczyk is a tremendous honor.”

Byrne was a competitive athlete prior to losing his leg in a work accident. That accident caused him to reevaluate himself and his worth. He says, “I used to think, what can a guy do with one leg?” Through learning about sled hockey and the Paralympic Games, Byrne learned he could do quite a lot.

“When I became part of sled hockey, and it took me to the level where I could actually compete, I thought, now I can be somebody!” On winning the gold medal in 2002, Byrne says, “I realized dreams do come true.”

The Illinois Hockey Hall of Fame was created to honor the excellence of those individuals who, through their exceptional endeavors both on and off the ice, have contributed in an extraordinary way to enhance the sport and image of hockey in Illinois.

For the complete story: <http://abilitiesexpo.com/buzz12.html#4>

Filmmaker Dan Habib discusses his personal experience with inclusion in his film “Including Samuel”

Six years ago, Dan Habib sat at his son Samuel's hospital bedside at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center as he lay in a medically induced coma. Samuel was four years old and had developed pneumonia from complications following surgery. His neurologist, Dr. James Filiano, encouraged Dan to be a photojournalist in the midst of his fear. “You should document this,” he said. It was the moment that Dan began to move towards filmmaking, a new direction for him, both professionally and personally.

Dan began working on *Including Samuel*, a 58-minute documentary that was released nationally late last year. As a director and as a father, Dan states, “My experience with making the film not only helped me face my fears, but also my biases. The project became my outlet for processing this new reality in our lives. We had a child with a disability.”

“As a father, I wanted to show the general public why I felt so strongly that inclusion is the most important factor to giving Samuel and other children with disabilities the opportunity for a happy

and fulfilling life. As a journalist, I didn't want to sugarcoat the issue. I wanted the film to be as complex as the reality of successful inclusion.”

Samuel's life is the central thread through the film, and Dan wants viewers to learn a lot about him beyond the fact that he has a disability. He wrestles with his brother. He loves t-ball. He wants to be an astronaut when he grows up. Samuel is only ten however, and Dan feels that including him will likely become more and more challenging as he grows up. He also made this film to learn from the experiences of other people with disabilities who can look back on the choices they and their parents have made, and to see how these choices have shaped their lives. *Including Samuel* also documents the experiences of four other subjects: Keith Jones, Alana Malfy, Nathaniel Orellana, and Emily Huff, along with their families, educators, other students and their communities as a whole.

“My hope is that my film will inspire the public to talk about inclusion in a more informed and innovative way,” says Habib. “I also hope they will get to know Samuel at the same time. I know that Samuel will teach a lot of people, which is good because the world has a lot to learn.”

For a film trailer and more info, visit: www.includingsamuel.com

National ParaTriathlon Training Camp

It's that time again for the 2010 Getting2Tri National ParaTriathlon Training Camp for individuals with disabilities. This multi-day training and instructional event is scheduled for March 18-20, 2010 in Atlanta. The camp will be hosted at Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech) to assure that participants have the best sports facilities available for training. This year's camp is limited to 50 participants to ensure individualized attention, training, and safety. Register online today at: [Getting2Tri NTTC 2010](http://www.getting2tri.com/NTTC2010).

Resources and Tools

.Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation Inclusion Champion Award

Nominations due: May 1, 2010

The Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation (MEAF) Inclusion Champion Award honors individuals who have made significant efforts to promote the full inclusion of youth with disabilities in society. The focus of the efforts may include, but is not limited to, helping to create a culture of inclusion within an organization or community or developing innovative strategies for inclusive programming in: school activities, after-school programs, community service, and leadership development. The Inclusion Champion is selected each year by a panel of experts in the field, and is presented during the Kids Included Together (KIT) annual conference in April. The award consists of a trophy and \$1,000 donated to the charity of the Champion's choice.

For more information, go to <http://www.meaf.org/grants-inclusion.php#incchamp>.

Introducing...AbilitiesExpo.com 2.0

Just in time for the new year, Abilities Expo has re-launched abilitiesexpo.com with more accessibility, streamlined navigation, improved personalization, a better look and more emphasis of Expo products and features. The initial launch under Abilities Expo's new management took place nearly one year ago.

Disability Sport eBook Downloads

Disability Sport free PDF ebook downloads:

<http://www.pdfgeni.com/book/Disability-Sport-pdf.html>

Policy Issues

Disability Listening Tour

In early 2010, the U.S. Department of Labor's (DOL) **Office of Disability Employment Policy** (ODEP) and its Federal partners will hold a series of six Listening Sessions across the country on disability employment. Each Listening Session is an opportunity for members of the public to provide input to senior Federal officials on their ideas for more effective ways to employ women, Veterans and minorities with disabilities and what is currently working in their regions to increase employment of people with disabilities. ODEP seeks input particularly from:

- **Individuals & Consumers:** youth and adults with disabilities, parents and caregivers.
- **Employers:** public and private
- **Service Providers & Advocacy Organizations:** Independent Living Centers, One-Stops, State Rehabilitation.

Register for an Event or Submit Comments at <http://www.disabilitylisteningtour.com/>

Dallas, TX, January, 21 2010

Open to residents of Arkansas, Colorado, Louisiana, Montana, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Wyoming (DOL Region IV)

*Registration and Comment Period Open Now!

Philadelphia, PA January, 27 2010

Open to residents of Delaware, Washington, DC, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia (DOL Region II)

*Registration and Comment Period Open Now!

Chicago, IL, February 11, 2010

Open to residents of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Wisconsin. (DOL Region V)

*Registration and Comment Period January 11 - February 13

San Francisco, CA , February 16, 2010

Open to residents of Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, Guam. (DOL Region VI)

*Registration and Comment Period January 16 - February 18

Atlanta, GA , February 24, 2010

Open to residents Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee. (DOL Region III)

*Registration and Comment Period January 24 - February 27

Boston, MA, March 3, 2010

Open to residents of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands. (DOL Region I)

*Registration and Comment Period February 3 - March 5

Conferences and Training Opportunities

Connect · Innovate · Inspire
**10th Annual BlazeSports America's National Conference on
Disability Sport and Therapeutic Recreation**

****NEW DATES****

February 11-13, 2010

Marriott Evergreen Conference Resort located in Stone Mountain, Georgia

The 2010 Conference is expected to be the best ever, with more than 20 interactive sessions on topics ranging from coaching to recruitment and program development. These sessions will be lead by the nation's top sports professionals; elite coaches and Paralympic athletes will share their cutting edge training techniques with attendees. Wheelchairs and other sporting equipment will be on hand to ensure a hands-on learning experience. Additionally, Conference attendees will have access to one-on-one consulting on fundraising, risk management, public relations, grant writing, and more. This is an excellent chance to meet the best minds in disability sport from across the country! **Continuing education credits** and a new **Disability Sport Certification Program** will be offered.

To register and for more information visit:

<http://www.blazesports.org/EducationAndTraining/AnnualConference.html>

**National Center on Accessibility (NCA) Training Course: Retrofitting for
Accessibility, Lake Mead, Nevada, January 26-29, 2010**

This NCA training course focuses on the application of the accessibility standards and proposed guidelines to the built environment and outdoor developed areas. The course is designed for planning, construction, and maintenance professionals responsible for making existing facilities accessible to people with disabilities. Curriculum emphasis will include application of the ADA-

ABA accessibility standards, an introduction to the draft final accessibility guidelines for outdoor developed areas, barrier removal, safety issues associated with accessibility, and ongoing facility maintenance to assure optimum access for visitors, including those with disabilities.

To learn more about this new training course, go to <http://incfit.org/node/278>.

2010 FISA Adaptive Rowing Classification Workshop February 5-7, 2010, Tampa, Florida

Presenters:

Judy Morrison (FISA International Medical Classifier and Member of FISA Adaptive Commission) and Rebecca Orr (FISA International Technical Classifier)

The workshop will train new medical and technical classifiers and update current classifiers to the new FISA guidelines to be used from 2010 through to the 2012 Paralympics. Rowers will also get a chance to be classified for competition. Schedule and registration/application will be available shortly. Please email your questions or indication of interest to:

kewisbiller@aim.com. Attendance will be limited. Rowers who would like to be classified should plan to attend the Sunday session only.

ACSM's Health and Fitness Summit and Exposition, April 7-10, 2010, Austin, Texas

ACSM's Health and Fitness Summit Meeting is geared towards presenting applicable cutting edge research to Health and Fitness professionals. A wide range of disciplines are covered from nutrition, personal training and exercise program design, to sports medicine and professional development. By attending this meeting you'll have the chance to not only listen to leaders in the Health and Fitness field talk about new advances and controversies, but you'll also get to participate in hands-on workouts. If you're interested in promoting health and fitness to people of all ages and capabilities, this meeting will expose you to a wide range of information and future job possibilities!

For more information, go to:

http://www.acsm.org/Content/NavigationMenu/Education/Conferences/HealthFitnessSummit/Summit_10.htm

CEC 2010 Convention & Expo Conference, April 14-21, 2010, Nashville, TN

Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)'s Convention & Expo is the largest professional development event dedicated to special and gifted education. Catch up on what's happening in the field, broaden your perspective of special education, and further your professional growth through the more than 800 educational hours offered.

For more information, go to:

<http://www.cec.sped.org/Content/NavigationMenu/ProfessionalDevelopment/ConventionExpo/>

2010 Developing Amazing Leaders Conference, April 30 -- May 02, Colorado Springs, Colorado

The primary goal of the conference is to provide "key" Paralympic audiences including community leaders, military personnel, sport and recreation program specialists, coaches, therapists, researchers, educators, college students, and other interested parties from across the USA, the tools and the inspiration to implement and support successful Paralympic sport programs in their communities. For more information, go to:

<http://guest.cvent.com/EVENTS/Info/Summary.aspx?i=4ad0affd-97b8-4881-87ec-4602df10b584>

3rd International Congress on Physical Activity and Public Health May 5-8, 2010, Toronto, Canada

The Program Committee for the 2010 International Congress on Physical Activity and Public Health has selected "Mobilizing Research for Global Action in Policy and Practice" as the major title for the Congress. The title highlights the major goal of the Congress to provide leading edge research as the foundation for the development of future physical activity policies and programs. For more information on this exciting conference please view the Fall Newsletter at

http://www.cflri.ca/icpaph/documents/Fall_08V12.pdf.

ACSM Annual Meeting, June 2-5, 2010, Baltimore, Maryland

ACSM's 57th Annual Meeting connects you with a wealth of distinguished experts in the fields of basic and applied science, education, medicine, research, public health, health and fitness and sports performance, and exposes you to cutting-edge research, hands-on workshops, highlighted symposia, and keynote speakers.

Held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting, the World Congress on Exercise is Medicine will be a unique international forum that addresses the science, practice, public health, and policy aspects of the impact physical activity has on disease prevention and health promotion. For information, go to:

http://www.acsm.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Annual_Meeting2



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