

President's Message



First, I hope everyone is doing their best to protect each other -- mask-wearing, social distancing, supporting local businesses with take-out and online ordering, assisting older neighbors by offering to pick up groceries or medicines so they can stay safe and calling them frequently for social conversations. Taking care of friends and family as well as ourselves during this pandemic must be our first order of business.

The pandemic has shut down our nation's Capitol for normal business. Thus, our work to advance the passage of H.R. 5528 (a Congressional Commission to undertake a two-year study on the need for college athletics reform) will not resume until after the election. However, we continue to work with members of Congress on three important issues: protecting college athletes forced to prematurely return to college campuses to practice and play during the pandemic, promoting athletes' rights to monetize the use of their names, images, and likenesses, have agents and be employed outside their colleges and universities, and laying the groundwork for federal legislation that would prohibit gambling on school and college athletics. And of course, we continue to respond to college athletics issues that arise every week, speaking out to demand that coaches and athletic directors act like educators and adhere to a moral compass.

Last but not least, we thank you, our members, for supporting these efforts. If you haven't renewed your membership yet and you think Drake is doing good work, please renew your Drake membership (January to December is our membership year) by [clicking here](#). Stay safe!

--Donna Lopiano, President

Meet Our President-Elect: Andy Zimbalist, Nationally Respected Sports Economist



Andrew Zimbalist is the Robert A. Woods Professor of Economics at Smith College. He received his B.A. from the University of Wisconsin and M.A. and Ph.D. from Harvard University. He has been in the economics department at Smith College since 1974 and has served as the college's NCAA Faculty Athletic Representative for over a decade. Zimbalist has also been a visiting professor at Doshisha University, the University of Geneva, and Hamburg University.

Zimbalist has consulted in Latin America for the United Nations Development Program, the U.S. Agency for International Development and numerous companies and in the sports industry for players' associations, cities, companies, citizens groups, teams, and leagues. He has published several dozen articles and 27 books, including *Unwinding Madness: What Went Wrong with College Sports and How to Fix It*. [Learn more.](#)

Julie Sommer Becomes the Newest Member of Our Board of Directors

We Need You!



[Congress is stepping up to press for college athletics reform.](#) Learn about H.R. 5528, a bipartisan Congressional Bill to establish a Congressional Advisory Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics and [how you can help.](#)

NEWS

Meet the 2020-2021 Drake Board of Directors

The ballots have been counted! Andy Zimbalist is our new President-Elect and Julie Sommer our newest board member. Andre Vasquez was elected Student Representative while Allen Sack, Gerald Gurney and Connee Zotos were reelected as Directors-at-Large.

[Click here to meet the full board.](#)

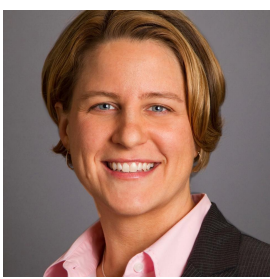
"How College Sports Can Survive"

Past President Dave Ridpath pens an analysis of college athletics challenges in the midst of the COVID-19 crisis. Without revenue from the NCAA Final Four tournament and other sources of income, many difficult choices must be confronted.

[Read more.](#)

Has Higher Education Lost Its Mind?

Andy Zimbalist and Donna Lopiano teamed up for a [Forbes op-ed](#) that went viral. As one freshman athlete stated: "So when the University of Texas tells you that you've gotta bring your ass back to campus,



Julie is an attorney in Seattle, Washington, with over 15 years of experience litigating civil, administrative and criminal matters at the administrative, trial, and appellate levels. Her areas of expertise include trust and estate planning, administration, contested guardianships, fiduciary representation, and contract and civil litigation.

Serving on Drake's Education Working Group, she developed and maintains our [State-by-State Legislation on College Athlete Name/Image/](#)

[Likeness Database](#) that is regularly shared with Congressional offices working on federal NIL legislation.

A native of Martins Ferry, Ohio, Julie earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Texas at Austin where she was a member of an NCAA National Championship swim team, among the top 10 in the World Swim Rankings, a member of the United States Swimming National Team and a four-time NCAA All-American.

Drake Group Applauds Senators Booker and Blumenthal for Athlete Protection vs. Covid...



The Drake Group applauds U.S. Senators Richard Blumenthal (CT) [left] and Cory Booker (NJ) [right] for introducing the "[College Athlete Pandemic Safety Act](#)" that would protect college athletes from forced or premature returns to campus and financial retribution



during the pandemic.

Andre Vasquez - Our Student Representative



Andre Vasquez, B.S., currently attends the University of Central Florida as a Prospanica scholar, studying in the DeVos Sport Business Master's program under the direction of racial equity icon Dr. Richard Lapchick and former Orlando Magic executive, Ashley Turner. Andre currently serves as a Graduate Assistant for both Football and Men's Basketball in the university's athletic department. He also serves as a research assistant for The Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport which highlights racial and gender hiring practices for the MLB, WNBA, NBA, NFL, NCAA, and MLS.

A Mexican-American native of Southern California and former athlete, Andre has been involved with sports all of his life. He attended eight different high schools and credits his diverse childhood and former college coach parents for his appreciation for sports as an outlet and vessel for personal growth.

guess what you've gotta do? Bring your ass back to campus, because that's your job. They're paying for your education. At the end of the day, it is what it is." And check out the [sequel](#).

On Top of Current Issues

Check out our [criticism of July 1 U.S. Senate Commerce Committee testimony](#), why we gave a recently [proposed Senate NIL bill a failing grade](#), our [reaction to the NCAA's new athlete misconduct policies](#) and [response to the issuance of new Title IX sexual harassment guidelines](#).

More Drakes!



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Share this newsletter with faculty colleagues or sports management students. [Membership](#) is only \$50 for professional, \$35 for faculty and \$10 for students. Be a part of making change happen!

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