



# THE DRAKE GROUP

Advancing Positive Legislative Change  
In College Athletics



## 2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Allen L. Sack**  
Director Emeritus

On June 1, 2021, co-founder of The Drake Group, Allen L. Sack was made a permanent voting member of the Board of Directors by unanimous vote of the Board, in acknowledgement of his 21 consecutive years of service as a leader of The Drake Group. Dr. Sack earned his Ph.D. in sociology from Pennsylvania State University and a B.A. from the University of Notre Dame where he played on the 1966 NCAA National Championship football team. Dr. Sack is a Professor Emeritus in the college of business at the University of New Haven where he taught for forty-one years. He also served as the Director of the federally funded Center for Athletes Rights and Education (CARE) in the early 1980s. CARE was co-sponsored by the National Football Players Association and the National Conference of Black Lawyers. Dr. Sack is the author of *Counterfeit Amateurs: An Athlete's Journey Through the Sixties to the Age of Academic Capitalism* and co-author of *College Athletes for Hire: The Evolution and Legacy of the NCAA's Amateur Myth*.



**Andrew Zimbalist**  
President

Andrew Zimbalist, Ph.D., is the Robert A. Woods Professor Emeritus of Economics at Smith College; he received his B.A. from the University of Wisconsin and M.A. and Ph.D. from Harvard University; Dr. Zimbalist has been and in the economics department at Smith College since 1974 and in has been a visiting professor at Doshisha University, the University of Geneva and Hamburg University; he has consulted in Latin America for the United Nations Development Program, the U.S. Agency for International Development and numerous companies and the sports industry for players' associations, cities, companies, citizens groups, teams and leagues; he has published several dozen articles and twenty-seven books, including *Unpaid Professionals: Commercialism and Conflict in Big-time College Sports* (1999), *The Economics of Sport, I & II* (2001), *May the Best Team Win: Baseball Economics and Public Policy* (2003), *The International Handbook on the Economics of Mega-Sport Events* (2012), *Circus Maximus: The Economic Gamble Behind Hosting the Olympics and the World Cup* (2015), *Unwinding Madness: What Went Wrong with College Sports and How to Fix It* (2017) with Gerry Gurney and Donna Lopiano, *Whither College Sports: Amateurism, Athlete Safety, and Academic Integrity* (2022).



**Donna Lopiano**  
Past-President

Donna Lopiano, Ph.D., is the President and founder of Sports Management Resources (SMR), a consulting firm that focuses on assisting scholastic and collegiate athletics departments and sports organizations in solving growth and development challenges; Lopiano also serves as an Adjunct Professor of Sports Management at Southern Connecticut State University; she was the Chief Executive Officer of the Women's Sports Foundation (1992-2007) and served for 18 years as the University of Texas at Austin's Director of Women's Athletics; prior to Texas, Lopiano served as an Assistant Professor and Assistant Athletic Director at Brooklyn College of the City University of New York; recognized as one of the foremost national experts on gender equity in sport, she has testified about Title IX and gender equity before three Congressional committees and has served as an expert witness in over thirty court cases; Lopiano received her bachelor's degree from Southern Connecticut State University, her master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Southern California and is the recipient of five honorary doctoral degrees.



**Wendy Pierpont**  
**Secretary**

Wendy W. Pierpont, EdD is a Learning Specialist at University of Oregon's Services for Student Athletes where she has worked for more than a decade; her professional focus is on academically underprepared students across all sports, working most intensely with freshmen who take courses in composition, education, and social sciences and all students to develop study skills and academic engagement; Pierpont also serves as the Access Specialist in the unit and supports student-athletes who need accommodations and testing to get connected with accessible education on campus; she has served on UO and athletic department committees on diversity and inclusion and is part of the Behavioral Management Health Team, an athletic department group that works to support the mental health and psycho-social development of student-athletes; she received an MA in Education (Intersection of Sport and Education) and teaching credential from U.C. Berkeley in 2000 and taught middle school Special Education and Language Arts and coached cross country for three years before returning to Berkeley for her doctorate; her areas of interests are academic engagement, students at risk of failure, experiential and alternative education, and student-athlete identity; Pierpont attended Boston University on a swimming scholarship and graduated with a BA in History.



**John Rosen**  
**Treasurer**

John Rosen is a member of the University of New Haven New Haven Economic Performance Laboratory Advisory Board, is a co-founder of MCAworks, LLC and NewTechHaven, LLC and is responsible for client engagements involving new business creation, branding, new product development and channel management; Rosen has over twenty-five years of sales and marketing management, as well as strategic, consulting experience; he has helped firms deliver real unit growth both domestically and globally across a wide range of industries: consumer packaged goods, financial services, telecom, small business software solutions, apparel, retailing, electronics, beverages, consumer durables, and automotive & industrial products; Rosen is the co-author of *Stopwatch Marketing: Take Charge of the Time When Your Customer Decides to Buy*, and Adjunct Professor of Economics at the University of New Haven; he received his MBA from Northwestern University and BS from Washington & Lee Univ.



**David Hughes**  
**Member-at-Large**

David Hughes is a Clinical Assistant Professor of Sport Management at Georgia State University. In 2019 while at Hampton University, David secured a \$400,000 technology grant to start the first eSports initiative at an HBCU. David has been a Graduate School of Education pre-doctoral fellow at the University of Pennsylvania, is a proud Morehouse College and Prairie View A&M University (PVAMU) alumnus. He has been nominated for faculty of the year, published children's books that highlight HBCU accomplishments, selected as an Emerging Scholar by American Educational Research Association (AERA), and has received certificates from Bloomberg in Business Market Concepts, the University of Pennsylvania for Race and Equity in Education and from Hampton University for Executive Leadership training. He has been selected as a Next Generation Leader by the NAACP; served as the Education Committee Co-Chair for the Atlanta branch of the NAACP, and as the Secretary of the Houston Morehouse Alumni Association for 5 years. In addition to his work in education and sports, David is the founder and CEO of the Give Black App, which is the world's first social impact financial technology (FinTech) app for Black philanthropic efforts for Black organizations.



**B. David Ridpath**  
**Member-at-Large**

Dr. B. David Ridpath, Ed.D. is an Associate Professor of Sports Business at Ohio University in the College of Business. Dr. Ridpath has several years of practical experience in the sports industry and teaches classes in several relevant areas with a focus on Governance, Ethics, Leadership and Intercollegiate Athletics. His primary research areas include intercollegiate athletics administration, governance, and rules compliance with an emphasis on student athlete academic achievement and graduation rates. This includes the ethics and components of the NCAA legislative, enforcement, and governance process and the intersection of educationally-based sport development and delivery in the US with other developmental programs throughout the world. Dr. Ridpath is the author of *Tainted Glory: Marshal University, the NCAA, and One Man's Fight for Justice* and *Alternative Models of Sport Development in America: Solutions to a Crisis in Education and Public Health*. An accomplished scholar, he has over 70 national and international refereed presentations and 30 peer reviewed and edited academic articles in print.



**Bruce Smith**  
**Member-at-Large**

Bruce Smith, Ph.D., is Director of Empowerment Strategies/CEO, ACES Group and has worked in K-12, higher education and intercollegiate athletics for more than two decades as a teacher, professor, administrator, and coach; as a higher education administrator, his work focused on student life, athletics, and equity and justice at both small private liberal arts colleges and flagship state institutions in California, Arizona, Colorado, and Oregon; Smith specializes in managing comprehensive student support; mentoring and supervising staff; creating connections between curriculum and co-curriculum and developing equity and justice institutional strategies; as a professor, his work focuses on African American life and culture; the sociology of education; sport studies; and American studies with an emphasis on developing engaging, student-centered, identity-conscious pedagogy.



**Sandy Thatcher**  
**Member-at-Large**

**Sandy Thatcher, a 1965 graduate of Princeton University summa cum laude in philosophy, is a past director of Penn State University Press (1989 to 2009).** Earlier he was employed for twenty-two years by Princeton University Press where he started as a copyeditor and ended as editor-in-chief. In retirement he acquires books in political science for Lynne Rienner Publishers and in political theory for the University of Rochester Press. He has been an Associate of the Tower Center for Political Studies at SMU since 2010 and a Friend of the Library there. A self-taught expert in copyright law, he served on the copyright committee of the Association of American University Presses (AAUP) from 1972 to 2015, chairing it for twenty-four of those years. He served twice for three-year terms each time on the AAUP board of directors and was president in 2007/08. He received the AAUP's highest award in 1999. A swimmer in college for four years, Sandy has been an active participant in US Masters Swimming since 1972, both as a competitor since 1972 and as a member of its History and Archives Committee since 2017.



**Andre Vasquez**  
**Member-at-Large**

**Andre Vasquez, M.B.A., Head of Influencer Relations and Partnerships for Luminosity Entertainment**, partnering with athletes and influencers for nationwide marketing campaigns across social media. For the last seven years of his career, he has operated at the intersection of sports and media -- at Jellysmack, a tech company based in Paris, France specializing in monetizing and scaling athletes and influencers on social media, with MLB in marketing and operations leading campaign execution for the MLB's Spring Training properties, with DelawareNorth on the United States Womens National Team and their CONCACAF World Qualifying Cup campaign. Andre is a graduate of the University of Central Florida (UCF) where he received his Master's in Business Administration. While at UCF he served The Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport working with the MLB, WNBA, NBA, NFL, NASCAR, & the NCAA in various capacities. A Mexican-American native of Southern California and former athlete, Andre has been involved in sports all his life. He credits his diverse childhood and former college coach parents for his appreciation for sports as an outlet and vessel for personal growth



**Connee Zotos**  
**Member-at-Large**

**Connee Zotos, Ph.D., is a Senior Associate at the consulting firm Sports Management Resources.** Most recently she served as the Associate Dean of Academic and Faculty Affairs and Clinical Associate Professor of Sports Management in the School of Professional Studies at New York University. Zotos is the former Director of Athletics at Drew University where she was responsible for the administration of 18 varsity sports programs during her 14-year tenure. Prior to serving at Drew, Dr. Zotos spent two years as the Director of Athletics at William Smith College, 10 years as a faculty member at The University of Texas at Austin, four years as the Director of Women's Athletics at Philadelphia University and seven years as a college coach. She is a prolific writer and speaker in the areas of coaches' employment and compensation systems, creating tiered athletic program models, coach evaluation and Title IX. She is a recipient of the Women Leaders in College Sports Nike Lifetime Achievement Award. She holds a Bachelor's degree from Glassboro State College, a Master's from the University of Colorado and a Ph.D. in Educational Administration from the University of Texas at Austin.