As FARs, we have a unique opportunity to make a difference in the lives of so many young men and women. During my time as FAR here at Saint Anselm College, I have witnessed the growth of many student-athletes—in the classroom, on the playing field and in their personal lives. The interaction has enabled me to establish lifelong friendships, friendships I have come to cherish. This perspective, that of opportunity, overshadows all the responsibilities related to fulfilling the role of FAR.

August and September brought meetings with teams, schedule adjustments, waiver applications, game attendance, academic advising and a myriad of other activities, the SAAC group prominent among them. Throughout the process of dealing with these matters, I have met young men and women with tremendous sense of commitment to their academic and athletic programs. In this issue, Dabney Gray, FAR at Stillman College (the other institution of higher education in Tuscaloosa, Alabama) tells his FAR story, one that will move new and veteran FARs. Thanks, Dabney, for your contribution to the FAR population.

FAR president Alan Hauser opens our newsletter, offering his views on matters of interest to all of us. Please read with pride the work of the national SAAC group as their September newsletter makes its appearance.

As always, we welcome your contributions and hope that you take a moment to reflect on your role as FAR, the state of athletics in higher education or on any other matter of concern to all of us as we carry out our FAR responsibilities.

Joe Catanese
Saint Anselm College

September
John Updike

The breezes taste
Of apple peel.
The air is full
Of smells to feel-
Ripe fruit, old footballs,
Burning Brush,
New books, erasers
Chalk, and such

The bee, his hive,
Well-honeyed-hum,
And mother cuts
Chrysanthemums.
Like plates washed clean
With suds, the days
Are polished with
A morning haze.
FROM THE PRESIDENT

My fellow FARs,

By now we should all be well into the fall term, as well as into the seasons for our fall sports. I trust all is well, and you are enjoying this time of the year. Let’s take a moment for us all to pause and remember the victims of the recent hurricanes as they work to rebuild their lives. While the destruction was widespread, at least the loss of life, while substantial, was far less than was feared when the storms were approaching.

In my monthly letter to you, I would like to briefly address two items. The first is to say that all of us on the FARA Executive Committee are excited about the program we have for you this November in San Diego. I invite you to check it out on: www.FARAWebsite.org. We have some excellent sessions dealing with our interaction with student-athletes on our campuses and in our conferences and, appropriately, we will have a number of student-athletes present to speak with us in San Diego about issues of importance to them. As I have indicated in previous letters in FARA Voice, Roger Caves, President-Elect of FARA, and I have been working to build a strong relationship with the national SAAC groups. Attached in this month’s FARA Voice you will find the letter to us all from Kerry Kenny and Matthew Baysinger, leaders in the Division I SAAC, as well as my and Roger’s letter to SAAC members, which was presented in the SAAC newsletter (which was forwarded to you with the FARA Voice). We are working to establish similar relationships with the Division II and III SAACs. This promises to be of enormous benefit to us in the work we do as FARs.

The second item concerns the work we are doing to establish FAR institutes in all three divisions. As you know, for several years Division II has had a very successful and helpful institute designed to help FARs become more effective in performing their roles. Each year, approximately one FAR from each conference is chosen to take part in this institute, which is an intensive program more than two days long. There are now two committees established to begin planning these institutes for Divisions I and III. Cecil Carter is chairing the committee for Division I, and Lorrie Clemo, a former president of FARA, is chairing the committee for Division III. We will keep you informed as the planning goes forward for beginning these institutes in Divisions I and III.

Enjoy all the pleasures that come, both in the classroom and on the field of competition, from this time of the year. We appreciate all you do on each of your campuses to help make intercollegiate athletics the best it can be for our student athletes.

Alan Hauser
President of FARA
FARA Elections are Now Underway

As per the FARA Bylaws, elections for FARA Executive Committee members and officers occurs during the fall, and the results are announced at the FARA Annual Meeting and Symposium. As the FAR at your institution, you should have received an email from FARA with the subject line “Your DI, II, or III FARA election invitation”. This e-mail should have arrived on or about September 29. If you did not receive the email for the elections, please contact Roberto Vicente at the NCAA office by email at rvicente@ncaa.org. The balloting is now open and all voting ends on November 1. Profiles of the nominees for all positions are available on the FARA Web site at http://www.farawebsite.org/. From the home page, click on the link to the election to view the profiles. Thank you for taking the time to cast your vote.

FARA Fall Meeting and Symposium: Requests and Updates

Registrations
Attendance at the 2008 Fall Meeting and Symposium will be close to 300. The FARA Executive Committee thanks you for your participation and looks forward to working with you.

Requests for Ideas for the Friday lunch ‘table tents’
The Friday lunch this year will serve as an informal round table opportunity. Tables will be marked with topics for discussion. We seek your input for topics of interest. Please forward your suggestions to kcooper@ncaa.org.

Saturday Morning Photo Session
Please pack a shirt with your college logo for our photo session. We plan to take photos of FARs in each division.

Professional Development
Kudos to Rhonda Hatcher for serving as Chair of this FARA Executive Subcommittee. Rhonda reports that the FARA brochure created for distribution to presidents should be ready by the fall meeting. Rhonda has been guiding the efforts to pursue FAR Fellows Institutes in Divisions I and III, institutes similar to, but not a replication of, Division II FARA Fellows institutes. Approximately 65 Division II FARs have attended the Institute held each year in Indianapolis in October. Another 20 Division II FARs will participate this month in the 4th annual Institute. Cecil Carter chairs the Division I initiative and Lorrie Clemo the Division III planning group.
LET ME TELL YOU A STORY

I grew up in the Mississippi Delta, just outside of Dublin, Mississippi, to be exact, about seven miles from Drew, Mississippi, where Archie Manning grew up. In 1967 we both became freshmen at The University of Mississippi (Ole Miss). He played football; I was a football manager. In the fall of 1969, Ole Miss played the University of Georgia in Jackson, Mississippi. Georgia was ranked third in the nation at the time. Just before half-time, Archie got hurt, and I went with him into the dressing room. I had to return to the field once to retrieve some equipment the trainer needed, and on that trip I spotted Mrs. Manning, Archie’s mother, trying to get past security and down on field level to check on her son. I ran over, identified Mrs. Manning for the guard, and she was allowed to make her way beneath the stadium to the fence that separated the stands from the field.

It was the middle of the third quarter before Archie was ready to return to the game. As we left the dressing room, I pointed out Mrs. Manning to Archie. He nodded to her, an indication that all was well, and he and I started across the end zone and back to the bench on the far side of the field. When we walked back onto the field, many of the fans, seeing their All-American quarterback returning, stood and began to cheer. As we walked further into the open and as more and more of the people in the stands saw Archie, it seemed as if the entire stadium was looking in our direction, standing, and cheering. From my perspective, they were all looking directly at me, and for a split second I thought, “Finally, they realize what an asset I am to this ball club!” Then, of course, I realized that in actuality they did not see me at all; they only saw Archie.

Through the years, I have often harked back to that moment. It seemed at the time the perfect metaphor for the job of manager: supporting, assisting, caring, but invisible. It seems now a pretty good metaphor for the role of the Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR). Like a good manager, the FAR is often the behind-the-scenes person on campus who attempts to support, assist, and care, but in many ways remains invisible. The FAR exists on the edge of the action, smoothing the way, handling situations (if possible) before they become problems—or newspaper articles. And like a manager, the FAR is a member of the team, celebrating wins and lamenting losses, except that not all the wins or losses are on the field, court, or track. Many are in the classroom, in the financial aid office or the registrar’s office, in student affairs, academic affairs, or the business office.

In all these places and more, as FAR I have experienced many facets of the job. The mundane and endless form signing, grade checking, rechecking, phone calls, e-mails, trips, conventions, sleeping in strange places, in strange beds, around strange people, never seems to end. And I have also visited the “dark side” of the job, investigating a friend for alleged violations and writing a report for the college CEO and the NCAA. This was an instance where I was forced to act like a grown up, and I did not like it, but I realized that at the end of the day playing by the rules is where we all should be.

I am no longer an idealist. Perhaps I never was. But I still get chills when I hear “The Impossible Dream” or the theme from Chariots of Fire. I like the feeling. I still want to believe. And each new school year, FARs across this country by doing their mostly invisible and unremarkable jobs on their own respective campuses serve in some small way to rekindle that spark of idealism so that it might light the way for our student-athletes. Our role is unsung, often boring, usually thankless, and so necessary—and fulfilling.

Dabney Gray
FAR, Stillman College
All of you should have received your own copy of the Journal this summer. I hope you found some of the articles to be both provocative and informative. If any of you are interested in sending your own research to the Journal, please do so.

Also, one request: If you know of scholars on your campus who are doing work in the area of intercollegiate sport or related topics, please share the journal with them. We want to spread the word as quickly as possible. It is yet another way we can engage faculty in intercollegiate athletics—a way that might surprise some of our colleagues.

Scott Kretchmar, FAR (Penn State)
Editor, Journal of Intercollegiate Sport

JIS Call for Papers

Human Kinetics is pleased to announce the June 2008 launch of the Journal of Intercollegiate Sport (JIS). The mission of JIS is to stimulate and disseminate both theoretical and practical research on sport in higher education. This academic journal is supported by start-up funding from the NCAA in an effort to foster cross-disciplinary research on intercollegiate sport and promote the integration of athletics with the educational missions of colleges and universities.

Aim and Scope. Articles submitted for publication in JIS will be reviewed by the editorial board on the basis of standard academic and research criteria. Contributions may be specifically about sport in college and university settings or about broader biological, medical, psychological, social, or philosophical factors that impact sport in higher education. Articles from the sciences, social sciences, humanities, and professional fields are accepted. Submissions that are cross-disciplinary in nature and have clear practical applications are encouraged. All articles should be written for an educated, lay readership and accordingly, should be nontechnical in nature.

Disciplinary Appeal. JIS supports research that is both interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary in nature. It welcomes submissions originating from a wide array of disciplines, as well as submissions addressing problems that transcend traditional academic boundaries.

For complete submission guidelines, please go to: http://www.humankinetics.com/JIS/journalSubmissions.cfm

DIVISION I LEGISLATION

Three of the legislative proposals that will be discussed at the Division I legislative review session on Friday at the FARA Annual Meeting are related to baseball. Last year’s legislation resulted in the shortening of the championship segment of the baseball season, leading to additional missed class time. The three baseball proposals this year will allow student-athletes to concentrate more on their academics. These proposals make an adjustment to the number of games (2008-48), move four games to the non-championship season (2008-47), and finally, lengthen the championship season by one week (2008-46). Each of three proposals and their intent are listed below.

2008-46 PLAYING AND PRACTICE SEASONS -- BASEBALL -- PRESEASON PRACTICE AND FIRST CONTEST -- CHAMPIONSHIP SEGMENT

In baseball, to specify that in the championship segment, an institution shall not commence practice sessions prior to the Friday that is three weeks prior to the first permissible contest date.
for the championship segment and shall not play its first contest (game or scrimmage) with outside competition prior to the Friday in February that is 14 weeks before the Friday immediately preceding Memorial Day.

2008-47 PLAYING AND PRACTICE SEASONS -- BASEBALL -- MAXIMUM NUMBER OF CONTESTS -- 52 DURING THE CHAMPIONSHIP SEGMENT AND FOUR DURING THE NONCHAMPIONSHIP SEGMENT

In baseball, to specify that an institution shall limit its total playing schedule with outside competition during the institution's playing season to 52 contests (games and scrimmages) during the championship segment and four contests (games and scrimmages) during the non-championship segment.

2008-48 PLAYING AND PRACTICE SEASONS -- BASEBALL -- MAXIMUM NUMBER OF CONTESTS -- 52 DURING THE CHAMPIONSHIP SEGMENT

In baseball, to reduce the maximum number of contests from 56 to 52.

Tom Adair
FARA Division I Vice President

A MESSAGE FROM DIVISION I SAAC

The end of the summer is bittersweet for many student-athletes. Some will be entering into collegiate athletics for the first time as freshmen, while others are anticipating their last collegiate seasons. Many of us will be competing in the first weeks of fall, while others will have to wait until spring. But the one thing that all student-athletes have in common is the fact that fall classes are here again. While many student-athletes were making final summer preparations and enrolling in classes for the fall, the NCAA Division I National Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) held its annual July meeting in beautiful Minneapolis, Minnesota. While July tends to be our most relaxed meeting, it was not one to be taken lightly. Over the course of three days, we discussed upcoming legislative proposals, the findings and works of the DI Football and Basketball academic enhancement groups, conference issues and many other current issues facing today’s student-athletes. With all of this in mind, however, one of the more exciting elements of our July meeting was the relationship that we were able to build with Alan Hauser and Roger Caves of FARA.

Throughout the July SAAC meetings we were able to discuss numerous times how important it is to have a strong working relationship between the FARA and the DI National SAAC. In realizing this, we quickly came to the conclusion that the relationship between FARA and the DI National SAAC can only be as strong as the relationship between FAR’s and SAAC’s at each respective institution. Over the course of this school year, we are very excited to see how this relationship can be strengthened, and how much can be accomplished when FARA and the DI National SAAC work together for a common purpose; to enhance the student-athlete experience.

We are also very excited that we will have the opportunity to not only send student-athletes to your November meeting in San Diego, but that we have built an important relationship that can only continue to grow while benefitting both parties involved. We are looking forward to working with you not only on a national level, but at every NCAA institution as well. Thank you for all of the work that you do for student-athletes; your efforts to enhance the student-athlete experience do not go unnoticed.

Respectfully,
Matthew S. Baysinger, University of Kansas
Vice Chair, NCAA Division I National SAAC

Kerry B. Kenny, Lafayette College
Chair, NCAA Division I SAAC
Another year of interesting (maybe even exciting!) activities is slated for the FARA Meeting November 13-15, 2008 in San Diego. I am pleased to announce that Dr. Charles Ambrose will be our keynote speaker for the opening session Thursday afternoon. Probably all of you know that Dr. Ambrose (President of Pfeiffer University) was the Chair of the DII President’s Council during the development of the Strategic Positioning and Community Engagement Initiatives. Dr. Ambrose will address how these initiatives can enhance the student-athlete experience and the role of the FAR. The remainder of the afternoon session will focus on how student-athletes have been and can be involved in community engagement. Please share your experiences with the rest of us during this open discussion.

Friday afternoon we begin with a panel session on a topic requested on the response forms distributed at the end of last year’s DII session. The topic is scholarships – postgraduate and degree-completion. We will learn about the history of DII in applying for and receiving scholarships from three gentlemen who have been involved in the process. The panel discussion will be followed by an update from the DII national office staff. Among the topics to be discussed are the status of the Academic Success Rate and the variety of leadership opportunities for our student-athletes. A review of the legislation completes the day, though a new element this year will be a preview of ideas/concept that have been raised as possible foci for 2010 proposals.

Saturday morning has three components. First, we will review what has happened in the year since our Baltimore meeting and the theme of Engaging the Faculty. Second, we turn attention to our role in the theme of this year’s meeting – Enhancing the Student-Athlete Experience. Third, as last year, there is time to plan how each of us might begin to implement ideas related to this year’s theme. These three sessions will feature group discussion by type and size of institution, a structure that attendees found very productive and informative last year.

I look forward to seeing all of you in San Diego!

Robert Ziegenfus
FARA Division II Vice-President

November 13-15, 2008
FARA Annual Meeting and Symposium
San Diego

January 14-17, 2009
NCAA Convention
Washington, DC

November 12 – 14, 2009
FARA Annual Meeting and Symposium
St. Louis

November 11-13, 2010
FARA Annual Meeting and Symposium
Baltimore
A Few Thoughts… from the Editor

We must address the use of the word *hazing* by national announcers and commentators. Our proactive efforts on this issue are being undermined. What do you think?

Fall baseball makes sense in the Northeast and North Central sections of the country. Golf and Tennis have split seasons, so there is precedence. The late summer and fall seasons are wonderful times to play the game that remains the national pastime. Anyone in agreement?

Tell Us How We Are Doing!

**We would love to hear from you regarding the FARA Voice. If you have any comments, questions, or ideas for future articles, please direct them to**

Karen Cooper at FARA@ncaa.org.

“A child looking at ruins grows younger but cold and wants to wake to a new name I have been younger in October than in all the months of spring walnut and may leaves the color of shoulders at the end of summer a month that has been to the mountain and become light there the long grass lies pointing uphill even in death for a reason that none of us knows

and the wren laughs in the early shade now come again shining glance in your good time naked air late morning my love is for lightness of touch foot feather the day is yet one more yellow leaf and without turning I kiss the light by an old well on the last of the month gathering wild rose hips in the sun.”

- W. S. Merwin, *The Love of October*

http://www.farawebsite.org
November 13-15
Westin Gaslamp Quarter Hotel --- San Diego

ONLINE REGISTRATION IS NOW CLOSED
IF YOU STILL NEED TO REGISTER, CONTACT KAREN COOPER AT
KCOOPER@NCAA.ORG or you may register in person at the conference.

No hotel rooms are available. THE HOTEL IS SOLD OUT.

The registration fee for the meeting will be $225, which will include all registration
materials, entry to all sessions, awards dinner, three additional meals, a welcome gift and
a special gift for Saturday attendees. Tentative sessions will include:

- Keynote address by Dr. Myles Brand
- Presentation by Ann Myers Drysdale
- Presentation of the 2008 Walter Byers Scholarship Award winners
- Results of the NCAA Wagering Study
- Postgraduate Scholarships
- NCAA Survey Process
- Diversity
- Review of NCAA legislation
- Division I Sessions will include:
  - Academic Advisors Panel; Participation in NCAA Investigations; Time Demands;
  - Strategic Tools for APR – Communicating with your Coaching Staff; FAR, AD and
    Compliance Coordinator Panel
- Division II sessions will include:
  - Division II Strategic Positioning and Community Engagement – Enhancing the Student-
    Athlete Experience and the Role of the FAR; Best Practices – Community Engagement
    and the Student Athlete Experience; Enhancing the Student-Athlete Experience – The
    FAR and Postgraduate Scholarships, Degree-Completion Scholarships, and the SAAC;
    Current Issues including the Academic Success Rate program, Champs/Lifeskills,
    Leadership Opportunities for Student-Athletes
- Division III sessions will include:
  - Reducing Class/Sport Conflicts, Student-Athlete Interaction with Faculty; Perception of
    the Student-Athlete by Faculty; Faculty Communication with Coaches; NCAA
    Scholarship Opportunities
  - Divisional Issues, including the Restructuring Survey
  - “How Can We Make Your Life Easier” SAAC Presentation
  - Action Plan for Enhancing the Student-Athlete Experience

The official faculty voice ensuring balance between academics and athletics for the benefit of
student-athletes at more than 1,000 NCAA colleges and universities.