

2006 Southern District Award Recipients

Honor Awards



Left to Right: Carolyn Mauck, Ron Morrow, Noël Grady-Smith

Honor Award Noël Grady-Smith

Noël Grady-Smith is the Lead Dance Teacher for Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools and Magnet Resource Teacher for Mineral Springs Middle Arts and Leadership Magnet School. She received her undergraduate degree in Special Education at the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill. She became Nationally Board Certified in 1999 as an Early Adolescent Generalist.

Ms. Grady-Smith is actively involved in leadership positions in professional organizations at several levels. She has served North Carolina AHPERD as a member of the Governor's Teacher Advisory Committee, President of DANCE, NC 1998-2000, Arts North Carolina – Board of Directors and is a North Carolina National Board Facilitator. For the Southern District, she was selected the Dance Educator of the Year in 2000, has been a SDAAHPERD conference presenter for the past seven years, and has been successful in gaining grants to support group expenses for 20 at-risk 8th grade dancers with their performances. At the National level she has been active in various programs from “Dance as the Catalyst for Learning” to “Dance and Anatomy – Can Frogs Dance”.

The professional contributions of Ms. Grady-Smith are many. She has collaborated on several grants, been selected to the USA – Today – All American Teacher Team, is a Guest Speaker and Survivor Counselor for the Susan Komen Race for the Cure and works with a host of other community organizations. As a dance professional, she is involved in the public schools and a private dance studio with 450 students ranging in age form 3 to adulthood.

Honor Award Carolyn M. Mauck

Carolyn Mauck is a Professor in the Department of Kinesiology, Health Studies & Recreation at Del Mar College. She has been an active member of Southern District AAHPERD since 1985. She received both her B.S. and M.S. degrees in Physical Education from Stephen F. Austin State University.

Ms. Mauck is active in numerous professional organizations which include AAHPERD, Texas AHPERD, National Association for Kinesiology and Physical Education in Higher Education, United States Tennis Association, and the Aerobics and Fitness Association of America Examiners. At Del Mar, she received the Excellence in Teaching Award and served as the Chair of the AHA Fitness Course/Heart Walk in 2005.

She has served the state as the Texas AHPERD President, Vice Presidents of TAHPERD's College and Dance Divisions and worked on numerous committees. She has served on several councils and committees in

Southern District including the Clyde Partin Service Award Committee Chairperson, Exhibits and Program Advertising Committee and is currently serving Southern District as the Vice President-Elect for the Physical Education Division. She has also served at the national level as a delegate to the AAHPERD Representative Assembly 1999, 2000, 2003-2005.

Carolyn has made presentations at state, district, and national conferences. She is an avid supporter of the Tri-Yoga Network and the United States Tennis Association. She serves on the Board of Directors of the National Association for Kinesiology and Physical Education in Higher Education as the Vice President-Elect and as a member of the Bylaws Committee.

Honor Award Ronald G. Morrow

Ronald G. Morrow is the Executive Director for the North Carolina Alliance for Athletics, Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. He was Chair of the Department of Physical Education at Davidson College from May 1992-September 1998 and served as a visiting faculty member at Barton College, NC Central University, and NC State University. He received his B.S. in Education from Western Carolina University, and both his M.S. and Ed.D. in Exercise and Sport Science from the University of North Carolina – Greensboro.

Ron's professional affiliations include the Society of Association Management, American Society of Association Executives, AAHPERD, and North Carolina AAHPERD where he has been the Executive Director since 2001. He is a 36-year volunteer with the American Red Cross. He works with the United Way Allocation Review Board and worked with the Special Olympics Summer World Games on its Tennis Venue Management Team.

He has received the Honor Award from NCAAHPERD, SDAHPERD Presidential Citations in 1999, 2001, 2003, 2004 and the Service Awards in 1999 and 2003. Services to Southern District include positions as Vice-President of the Recreation Division; Convention Manager of the 1999 and 2003 Conventions; and Webmaster from 1998 to the present. At the National level he has served on the AALF Board, and was a member of the Social Justice Committee.

Ron has a notable record of publications and presentations at the state, district, and national conferences. His most recent publication is a journal article in Research Quarterly for Exercise and Sport titled "Perceptions of Homophobia and Heterosexism in Physical Education."

Taylor Dodson Award Michael D. Ballard

Michael D. Ballard currently holds the position of chair in the Department of Health Promotion & Administration at Eastern Kentucky University. He received a B.S. degree in Health Education and an M.A. Ed. in Secondary Education – School Health from Eastern Kentucky University. He earned an Ed.S. in Safety Education & Service and the Ed.D. in Health Education from the University of Tennessee.

Michael has been active at the state, district, and national levels. He will be completing a three-year term as a member of the Board of Directors of the American Association for Health Education (AAHE) in 2006. Other service to AAHE includes serving as chair of the Ethics Committee and being a reviewer for the American Journal of Health Education. His service to Southern District includes serving as Vice-President of the Health Division and chair of the Nominating Committee as well as membership on numerous other committees. At the state level, Michael has served as Vice-President for Health in KAHPERD and as President of the Kentucky Association for School Health.

Michael Ballard has received numerous awards recognizing his professional contributions to the field. He received the KAHPERD Distinguished Service Award, Outstanding Health Educator College/University, Merit Award and the Health Educator of the Year Award from the Kentucky Association for School Health.

Scholar Award
Daniel P. Connaughton

Daniel P. Connaughton is an associate professor in the Department of Tourism, Recreation and Sport Management at the University of Florida (UF). He holds a B.S. in Exercise Science and a M.S. in Recreational Studies from UF, a M.S. in Physical Education from Bridgewater State College, and an Ed.D. in Sport Administration from Florida State University. His teaching and research interests focus on the legal issues related to sport and physical activity, specializing in negligence liability and risk management.

Dr. Connaughton has authored or co-authored 55 refereed papers, and presented or co-presented more than 70 refereed papers at national and international meetings. He also coauthored a recently published textbook on Risk Management and is presently co-authoring texts in Sport Law and Liability in the Health/Fitness Industry. Additionally, he writes a regular Legal Issues column for the Florida AHPERD journal. Presently, Dr. Connaughton is leading an investigation examining the constraints to implementing automated external defibrillators in sport and recreation organizations, a study funded by the American Heart Association. In 2001 he was awarded *Research Consortium Fellow* by AAHPERD, and was named the *College/University Educator of the Year* by the Florida Chapter.

In 2003, Dr. Connaughton was named Teacher of the Year for UF's College of Health and Human Performance. In addition, he has served as a consultant on safety and risk issues involving sports, recreation, physical education, aquatics, and health/fitness activities.

Ethnic Minority Award
Darlene Ann Kluka

Darlene Ann Kluka is a full professor and Coordinator of the Kinesiology and Sport Studies program at Grambling State University (GSU) of Louisiana, a Historical Black University. She is an active writer, member of several professional organizations and researcher with several book reviews and articles to her credit. She is Past President of the National Association for Girls and Women in Sport (NAGWS) and past Division Chair of Southern District GWS. She received her M.A. and B.A. in Physical Education from Illinois State University and her doctorate from Texas Woman's University.

Darlene has been a continuous member of AAHPERD, SDAHPERD and LAHPERD since 1986. Prior to 1986 she lived in Illinois where she became a Life Member of the Illinois AHPERD. She has served to increase communications with SDAHPERD minority members through sponsorship of GSU students at the Leroy Walker Breakfast; involving GSU students and faculty in the LAHPERD Legislative Fitness Day; and taking minority students to the Sport Management Conference at Florida State University as presenters from 2001-2005. She has further sought to extend meaningful professional services to minority members by: Encouraging GSU students to attend the AAHPERD Student Leadership Conferences as LAHPERD delegates; inviting AAHPERD Scholars to speak at GSU; collaborating with Doris Corbett to secure the Nell Jackson Award for NAGWS; supporting a JOPERD feature to include minority women as authors; and by instituting the first minority women to serve in leadership roles through Southern District GWS.



Left to Right: Michel Cordier Clyde Partin Service Award; and
Christy Kay Health MPowers, formerly Kids' Health Inc.

Clyde W. Partin Service Award Kid's Health, Inc.

The mission of Kids' Health, Inc. is to promote health-enhancing behaviors among students, school staff and families to improve the quality of health and academic achievement of young people. The program includes services and support for students, school staff and families. Kids' Health is currently providing its comprehensive services to more than 35 public and independent elementary and middle schools in metro Atlanta and in outlying areas. Kids' Health and/or its participating schools have received various forms of recognition for its work and leadership including some of the following.

- Kids' Health is a recipient of a Carol M. White Physical Education for Progress Grant, one of only five in the state and one of 200 in the country.
- Kids' Health wrote all curriculum materials for the 2004-2005 Atlanta Falcons Fitness Challenge, and teamed with them to produce a classroom exercise DVD that was distributed to over 1000 classrooms in the state.
- Key staff and Board members have served and testified on health and physical education related matters for various committees in the Georgia House, Senate and Department of Education. Staff members have also served on various state-wide committees including CDC Obesity Prevention Initiative - Take Charge of Your Health Georgia, and others.
- Kids' Health staff members have been invited to present at international, national and state conferences, including American School Health Association, National Association for Health Education Centers, AAHE, GAHPERD, and the Georgia Federation for Professional Health Educators.

Clyde W. Partin Service Award Michael Cordier

Michael Cordier is currently the Vice President for GeoFitness, Inc. and is responsible for new business development, operations, sales, and marketing. Formally the National Sales Director for Walk4Life Inc., he has extensive experience in the health and wellness fields both as a trainer and educator.

Michael worked for Polar Electro for three years and the Wellness Assessment Center for four years before that. He also published a monthly wellness newsletter for educators in 1998, and consulted to numerous school districts such as Broward County, FL and health departments in the USA and Canada. He authored a

monthly column on personal wellness in a national technology magazine and was a leader in the introduction of fitness assessment technology to schools and universities in the USA since 1996. Over the past 10 years, Michael has presented on local, regional, national and international levels at educational, fitness, and wellness conferences and conventions. He has conducted many seminars and workshops on technology related to health and physical education.

A South African native, Michael studied at the Rand Afrikaans University in Johannesburg, SA. and moved to the United States in 1996. He is a certified aerobics instructor and personal trainer and was sponsored, by NIKE, and others, as a fitness professional between 1992 and 1995. His passion for education and educators is evident in his daily activities as a professional by developing physical activity programs for education institutions, corporations, hospitals, senior centers, and health facilities across the USA.

DIVISION AWARDS



Left to Right: Gwendolyn Hairston (Elementary PE TOY); DawnElla Rust (Health Educator of the Year—College/University); Ernest Holcomb (Secondary PE TOY), Elizabeth Gillaspay (Dance—College); Milne Bail Cato (Dance K-12)

Health Educator of the Year, College/University Dawn Ella M. Rust

DawnElla Marie Rust received her B.S. in Community Health from Oklahoma State University. She received her M.S. in Health and Physical Education from Emporia State University and her terminal degree in Health Promotions from Oklahoma State University. She has been American College of Sports Medicine Health/Fitness Certified since 1992. Currently she is a Community Health Professor and the Health Science Program Coordinator in the Department of Kinesiology and Health Science at Stephen F. Austin State University.

DawnElla has served as Texas AHPERD's Vice-President for Health, currently is the Health Editor for the TAHPERD Journal, and is a candidate for TAHPERD President. While living in Oklahoma she taught health at Northeastern State University and was the Wellness Coordinator at Rose State College.

In 1997 she was the recipient of the Oklahoma AHPERD University Health Educator of the Year Award. In addition to her service to TAHPERD, DawnElla is an Internal Board Member of the Health Promotion Advocates. She is also a member of the Society of Public Health Education, American College of Sports Medicine, and the National Wellness Institute. She is a dedicated teacher that strives to lead by example.

Physical Education Teachers of the Year

Elementary Physical Education Teacher of the Year Gwendolyn L. Hairston

Ms. Hairston obtained her Bachelors Degree in Health and Physical Education from Virginia State University in 1975. Gwendolyn has been employed as a Physical Education Teacher at Agnor-Hurt Elementary, Albemarle County for the past 13 years, and in the teaching profession for a total of twenty-nine years.

Gwen conducts a quality physical education program, uses a variety of teaching methodologies, serves as a positive role model, participates in professional development opportunities and is dedicated to our profession through her leadership and her presentations at the county and state levels.

Michele Del Gallo, Principal of Agnor-Hurt Elementary, rates Ms. Gwen Hairston “in the top 1% of all educators in her field. I would describe her as a master teacher, model educator, and an instructional leader. She has a very special presence about her that inspires students and adults to love learning and to follow their dreams.” Principal Del Gallo further states “her level of expertise and high professionalism have significantly influenced the overall effectiveness of Agnor-Hurt Elementary. She is deeply respected by students, teachers, parents, administration, our county’s leadership team and the University of Virginia.”

Gwendolyn Hairston not only embodies the state (VAHPERD) and district (SDAAHPERD) qualities of an Elementary Physical Education Teacher of the Year – but the true essence of what it means to be an “educator”.



PE TOYS: Left to Right: Gwendolyn Hairston, Kem Dudney, Ernest Holcomb

Middle School Physical Education Teacher of the Year Kem Dudney

Kem Dudney has served as a Physical Education and Health Teacher in Hallsboro Middle and High School for twenty-two years. She has developed a plan to train students to improve their wide variety of fitness, nutritional and medical needs. Public and private agencies have awarded her grants, including the North Carolina Division of Wildlife Resources, Good Shepherd Home, Department of Education (PEP grant), and the Brunswick Electric grant. In 2002 she received an Innovation in Technology grant that provided equipment and technology to improve her program.

Kem has served on many committees, trained student teachers for the University of North Carolina at Pembroke and at Wilmington, and served as county mentor for the National Board Certified Candidates. She has provided students with positive learning experiences that fit their individual needs and enjoyed physical activities and sports with them. Her program is the only one in the country that has a fitness center teaching fishing, canoeing and hunting safety.

Professionally Ms. Dudley has been a speaker and presenter at two AAHPERD conventions and a number of forums in North Carolina. She was a member of the PEP Grant Committee-Columbus County Principals and School Nurses. Her articles have appeared in *North Carolina Pride*, the *Brunswick Electric Membership Co-OP Magazine*, and *Future Fisherman Foundation of America Magazine*. She has been named Teacher of the Year by the following: Hallsboro Middle School, Columbus County, Sandhills/South Carolina Region and the Physical Education Association Middle School.

Secondary Physical Education Teacher of the Year Ernest Holcomb

For twenty-one of his thirty-two years in education, Ernest “Ernie” Holcomb has served as Health and Physical Education Instructor and Head Baseball Coach at Reidsville High School. He received his BS and MEd degrees from the University of North Carolina – Wilmington. He received National Board Certification Early Adolescence/Young Adult Physical Education in 2002.

Mr. Holcomb conducts a quality physical education program, based on state and national standards. He places the highest priority on physical fitness for lifelong health. Responsible behavior, sportsmanship and cooperation with peers are stressed. He adapts and individualizes instruction to meet the needs of all students.

Ernie is an active member of the North Carolina AAHPERD for 25+ years. The association has recognized his exemplary teaching by naming him the North Carolina “Celebrity Teacher”, High School Physical Educator of the Year, and the High School Health Educator of the Year.

Mr. Holcomb is an active member of several baseball coaching associations. He has been recognized for his thirty years of coaching, 500+ wins, and being #2 on the most wins list in North Carolina. Ernie is active in the Woodmont United Methodist Church where he has served on numerous administrative and service boards. He has volunteered for 29 years as a summer baseball coach.

Mr. Holcomb has been described as a conscientious, meticulous teacher and coach whose professionalism and quality of instruction is unmatched by anyone. He serves as a positive force in the school environment and has made a difference in the lives of many.

Adapted Physical Education Teacher of the Year Sherri A. Mell



Sherri Mell

Sherri Mell is a Certified Adapted Physical Educator (CAPE) in Edgewood ISD of San Antonio, Texas. She attended California State University, Fresno receiving her BA degree in Physical Education with Animal Science as a minor. Sherri taught elementary physical education for 14 years and was named Teacher of the Year on her campus as well as VFW Post 837 Teacher of the Year. Sherri is the (TAHPERD) Texas Association Health Physical Education Recreation & Dance Adapted Physical Education Teacher of the Year 2005.

Sherri is certified in nine sports in Special Olympics and has been coaching for 13 years. She was named the Tom Landry Special Olympics Area 20 Coach of the Year for 2005. She has been promoting recreation and leisure activities and non-traditional sports as well as the traditional sports through the San Antonio All Stars Inner City Games program for eight years as the only Equestrian Coordinator in the Nation. She has been the Coordinator of an annual St. Jude’s Children’s Cancer Research Center Trail Ride four years where many of her Special Olympics Athletes participate.

As a member of TAHPERD for 21 years, Sherri has presented for TAHPERD Conventions and Summer Conferences as well as local and district settings. She is a 2004 Inductee to the National Cowgirl Museum

and Hall of Fame with a long list of achievements in horse related activities, many involving the students in her life. Her R.O.P.E.R. (Riding Opportunities Promoting Exceptional Riders) program has been highlighted in numerous magazines as well as televised on the Texas Country Reporter TV Show.

Recreation Professional of the Year Julie Landreneau

Julie Landreneau grew up in a small town called Washington, Louisiana. Julie earned two degrees, BS in Agricultural Business and BS in Physical Education from the University of Louisiana, Lafayette. While in college, Julie worked in the Recreation Department and organized horseback riding and canoe trips for fellow students.

Julie currently works at St. Theresa of Avila School in Gonzales, Louisiana. It was under the guidance and leadership of Principal Jay L. Sullivan that she was given the opportunity to establish a summer recreation program, St. Theresa Summer Warrior Day Camp. For the past nine summers, Julie has been the Camp Director of the camp. When the camp began, it serviced approximately 90 campers a week. Now, the camp serves approximately 300 campers a week, ages 4 – 13 yr old, employs 42 paid staff members and accommodates 40 volunteers each week. She is very proud of the camp and all of the great students and campers that are affiliated with St. Theresa. According to Julie, none of this would be possible without the truly awesome staff members who work tirelessly for pennies and the incredible families that make up Ascension Parish and St. Theresa of Avila. Julie stresses that they are the ones who should be awarded. Therefore she accepts this award in honor of them and all they did to support the crazy trips and events they organized.

Dance Educator of the Year, K-12 Milne Bail Cato

Milne Bail Cato of Savannah, Georgia, studied dance at Florida State University and North Carolina School of Performing Arts. The American Dance Festival and Jacob's Pillow are among her other dance training experiences.

Ms. Cato began her career as a dance teacher in 1977 at an Atlanta high school. She has taught dance in elementary through university levels, as well as venues outside of the education settings. Milne has held several artist-in-residence grants. Among the dance idioms she has taught are creative movement, ballet, modern, jazz, and ethnic. She has taught dance-related lecture classes.

Milne has choreographed extensively. Among her credits are full length concert dance pieces, dance lecture/demonstrations, dance/drama productions, stage movement for concert singers, and musicals. Additionally, Milne has authored several pieces for local newspapers.

One theme that resonated in her letters of recommendations was how she generously volunteered her time to see that her students were prepared, meeting with them after school and on Saturdays. Her principal wrote, "She is a talented and dedicated educator and artist and, through her efforts, our school has become artistically and academically successful." Another wrote that "Ms. Cato's students benefit from her passion for teaching and also develop a love for movement and dance that stays with them through their school years...many children's lives have been positively changed through contact with her in dance classes."

Dance Educator of the Year, College/University Elizabeth Gillaspay

Elizabeth Gillaspay, an assistant professor at Texas Christian University (TCU), received her MFA degree with a major in ballet from TCU; holds a B.B.A. from Texas Tech and (lifetime) state teacher certification in secondary dance. She also studied dance at the North Carolina School of the Arts (Winston-Salem) and the American Ballet Theatre School (New York City). She performed professionally with the Atlanta (Georgia) Ballet, Atlanta Ballet Chamber Ensemble, the Contemporary Dance Company (Fort Worth) and (Fort Worth) summer musicals.

Elizabeth began her teaching career as an adjunct faculty member at a Fort Worth Community College before being employed part-time at TCU. Prior to her full-time position as lecturer at TCU, she taught five years in the Fort Worth ISD where she founded and coordinated the city's first high school dance program. Elizabeth became a full time, tenure-track faculty member at TCU in 2001.

Ms. Gillaspy conducts workshops at international, national, regional, and state conventions. Her choreography, some commissioned by the Orlando Ballet and in Japan, is extensive. As a teacher, she is involved with curriculum development and assessment. Her department chair wrote, "She consistently goes beyond my expectations with grace, clarity, creativity, and knowledge." A colleague stated, ". . . she brings fullness to the definition of mentor in all that she is, all that she does, and all that she professes-moment to moment, and over time."

Recognition Awards



Left to Right: Darlene Kluka (Ethnic Minority); Kim Berg (JRFH Coord. of Year); Michael Hemphill (Outstanding Student); Daniel P. Connaughton (Scholar); Michael Cordier (Service Award)

Southern District Outstanding Student Michael A. Hemphill

Pursuing a degree in Sport Management at Wingate University in North Carolina, Michael has earned a 3.1 cumulative GPA on a 4.0 scale, garnering President's List and Dean's List honors. His campus professional activities include founding member and Executive Board member of Phi Epsilon Kappa (professional sport science fraternity), Vice-President for Delta Sigma Pi (professional business fraternity), a peer mentor for Freshman Orientation, and the director for homecoming runs and triathlons. As a member of the Executive Committee of N.C. AAHPERD, he served as the Student Majors Association President, program director for the 2005 Student Leadership Conference, and assistant director for the 2004 conference. Michael currently serves on AAHPERD's Student Service Committee. He attended AAHPERD's National Student Leadership Conference (2004 & 2005), Leadership Development Conference 2005, and NCAAHPERD's Board of Directors Leadership Retreat in 2005.

Presentations resulting from a summer internship with NASPE (2005) and work with the Charlotte Bobcats (NBA) in their filming department as well as his work as a leader with student majors clubs, prepared Michael for three presentations at the 2005 NCAAHPERD Convention, one at the 2005 AAHPERD Convention and one each at the NC and AAHPERD Student Leadership Conferences. These activities helped earn him NASPE's outstanding Student Major of the Year Award in 2005.

Michael has shared his internship experiences and knowledge of student majors clubs with colleagues in his articles published in *NCAAHPERD News*, *NASPE News* and *the North Carolina Journal*.

Hoops for Heart Coordinator of the Year

Toni Leo

Toni Leo has been a Hoops for Heart Coordinator and Physical Education Teacher at Oak Mountain High School in Birmingham, Alabama since 1999. She has been involved in HFH for 9 years, and the number of participants has increased from 50 to 200 over that time frame. She has been active in the Alabama HPERD, and has received the Secondary Physical Educator of the Year Award, Dance Education Teacher of the Year Award, Health Educator of the Year Award and the Honor Award from ASAHPERD. She was also the Southern District Secondary Physical Education Teacher of the Year.

According to her colleagues, “Toni’s students come away from a HFH event with an understanding of the importance of exercise, proper nutrition, and a healthy lifestyle in the prevention of heart disease.” “Toni motivates her students to raise funds and awareness for research grants in the community. She does this by implementing the help of motivational speakers and through unconventional Hoops for Heart activities. Each year Toni Leo and Oak Mountain High School rank as one of Alabama’s most valuable HFH participants.”

Toni makes presentations at the state convention on “How to Have a Successful Hoops for Heart Event,” and she has received a state HFH grant.

Jump Rope for Heart Coordinator of the Year

Kim Berg

Kimberly Berg, NBCT has been a Physical Education Teacher in Grades K-5 at Alamance Elementary School in Greensboro, North Carolina since 1989. She has been a member of the JRFH Task Force in North Carolina since 1998, and is active in the North Carolina AAHPERD Association.

For the past 9 years, since Guilford County allowed JRFH, Kim Berg has held outstanding events. In 1999 her school was first in the state and first in the Mid-Atlantic Affiliate. The first year, Alamance Elementary raised \$15,000 and each year since then over \$20,000. If they reach their goal of \$25,000 this year they will have raised over \$200,000. Each year Alamance Elementary has ranked in the top 10 schools in the Mid-Atlantic Affiliate. Kim’s events continue to be highly successful due to the innovative and holistic ways in which JRFH is done at Alamance Elementary.

Kim has not only influenced JRFH at her school, but her influence can be seen all over North Carolina. Over the course of her 17 years, she has had numerous jump rope teams and has been instrumental in helping 15 specialists develop their own team. The past six years the Jazzy Jumpers have been a North Carolina State Demonstration Team and have traveled to promote Jump Rope for Heart.

One student using a wheel chair was passionate about becoming a member of the Jazzy Jumpers. Kim created a developmentally appropriate list of skills for him to complete in order to make the team. He performed with the team at the Women’s ACC Tournament.



Left to Right: Fran Meyer & Eleanor Bobbitt

Presidential Award Eleanor Bobbitt

A true professional for more than 40 years, Eleanor W. Bobbitt modeled excellence and passion for many things: educating young children, molding college students into strong professionals, and providing extraordinary service to the profession. Her professional journey began with a BS degree (Longwood College), a MS degree (University of Tennessee at Knoxville), and a PhD from the University of Maryland. Eleanor taught in the public schools for two years (Roanoke, Virginia) and then joined the Longwood College staff. While teaching in higher education, she motivated students and peers to do their best and give more when possible (and “possible” was always around the corner). She embodied what she taught for students and peers.

Eleanor’s tireless efforts paved the way for widespread elementary physical education programs in Virginia and beyond. She promoted the process through service on numerous committees and in leadership roles at the higher education, state, district, and national levels. To name a few, Eleanor served as VAHPERD’s Executive Director for several years. She also served as president of the Tidewater Field Hockey Association, VAHPERD, SDAAPERD, and the national Delta Psi Kappa Fraternity. Eleanor served on every committee of these associations as well on committees of the Virginia Federation of Intercollegiate Sports for College Women, Southern Association for Physical Education for College Women, and AAHPERD.

Eleanor received numerous citations for her service to and leadership in the profession, including the prestigious VAHPERD and SDAAPERD Honor Awards and the VAHPERD lifetime achievement recognition, the Pioneer Award. Eleanor also was an invited Commencement speaker at Longwood College in 1979.

Henry Adams once wrote, “A teacher affects eternity; no one can tell where [her] influence stops.” For many years, Eleanor’s love, kindnesses, wisdom, and professionalism have impacted the lives of those who know her. Each person is better for the experience.