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In This Issue...

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In This Issue . . .

Stephen J. Langendorfer, Editor
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Upcoming International Aquatic Event in 2014

One upcoming international conference convening in the next several months which may be of interest to some IJARE readers is The Lifesaving Foundation's Drowning Prevention and Water Rescue Conference, which is held at the end of September and beginning of October.

The Lifesaving Foundation will convene their next drowning prevention conference at the Bracken Court Hotel, Balbriggan, County Dublin, Ireland from September 29 to October 2. According to the Lifesaving Foundation's Winter 2013 Newsletter, the conference includes general presentations, especially examples from the Handbook on Drowning (2nd edition) and joint sessions with the International Life Saving Federation's Can You Swim Project/Lifesaving Foundation's Why Swimmers Drown Project.

Anyone interested in attending the conference in a nonpresenting role may do so as a Foundation member who registers and pays the appropriate attendance fee. Available details on the conference can be accessed on the conference website that is linked from the main Lifesaving Foundation website home page, <http://www.lifesavingfoundation.ie/conference/>. Accommodations can be secured through the venue website <http://www.brackencourt.ie/>.

In This Issue – August 2014 8(3)

In this third issue of our eighth volume of the *International Journal of Aquatic Research and Education* an interesting, albeit unintended, theme emerged related to swimming and minorities across three papers. In addition, several other very interesting papers on different topics are included as well. I offer these scholarly manuscripts to our readers and subscribers for your enjoyment and edification. I will be glad to hear feedback from you related to my editorial about parents and swim lessons, as well as the papers in this issue, particularly the three focused around the minority swimming theme.

Original Research Articles

The first of the three research articles focusing on minorities and swimming is titled "The Development of Swimming Skills for African American Youth: Parent and Caregiver Perceptions of Barriers and Motivations." It was coauthored by a research group originating from the University of Memphis, and funded by USA

Swimming, to study why ethnic minorities are under-represented in competitive swimming. Sally Ross, now at Grand Valley State University, was lead author along with Carol and Richard Irwin and Timothy Ryan from University of Memphis and Nathan Martin from California State University at Northridge. This qualitative study provides some of the most critical insights so far into the personal, familial, and cultural reasons about why many African Americans do not swim.

The second research article was authored by Gail Ito from Northeastern Illinois University. The article, “Barriers to Swimming and Water Safety Education for African Americans,” results from the author’s doctoral dissertation research. As you will find when you read it, it is an intensely personal account based on focus groups. Its topic and findings are complementary to the Ross et al. paper and reinforce many of the same findings.

The third research article is a case study related to the competitive swimming experiences of an African American female competitive swimmer. The article, “Going Deep: Experiences of a Division I University’s First Black Female Competitive Swimmer,” was coauthored by Dawn Norwood of Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (however, she is currently affiliated with the University of Southern Indiana), Steven Waller of The University of Tennessee, and LeQuez Spearman of Gordon College. While it is focused primarily on college competitive swimming experiences, it portrays similar barriers and biases that emerged in the first two papers related to learning to swim and water safety.

Another of the research articles has its roots in competitive swimming and is the culminating paper in a 10-paper series published in *IJARE* over the past 4 years. Andrew Cornett, of Eastern Michigan University, and Joel Stager, from Indiana University’s Counselman Center for the Science of Swimming, have coauthored a paper that argues strongly for FINA and other competitive swimming organizations to modify the minimum depths needed for safe head-first water entries (e.g., competitive racing starts) based upon their research findings in the earlier nine published articles.

The final research article in this issue comes from a research team at Bond University in Gold Coast, Australia. These researchers, led by James Furness, include Wayne Hing, Mike Climstein, Allan Abbott, and Joe Walsh, studied chronic injuries suffered by surfers. The paper titled “Retrospective Analysis of Chronic Injuries in Recreational and Competitive Surfers: Injury Location, Type, and Mechanism” summarizes important findings about the hazards associated with long-term experience with surfing.

Educational Articles

This third issue wraps up with an educational article on autism spectrum disorder written by one of our frequent contributors, Susan Grosse. Her article entitled, “Aquatic Safety for Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders,” provides a number of practical insights for practitioners who may work with individuals who have various symptoms associated with autism.

I am at work on our final (i.e., fourth) issue of *IJARE*’s eighth volume for November 2014. There are several very interesting manuscripts in line to appear, as well as our annual report on our contributors and reviewers. Until then, may you enjoy continued good reading and safe swimming.

Steve Langendorfer, Editor