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In This Issue...

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EDITORIALS

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In This Issue . . .

I am excited about our third issue of the third volume of the *International Journal of Aquatic Research and Education*. I hope readers will be as well. I think you will discover quite a variety of interesting and thought provoking aquatic articles by authors from around the globe. In addition to the guest editorial and position paper, the research articles have been authored by a veritable United Nations of writers and researchers from the UK, Greece, Spain, and Australia along with several from the U.S. Our “international” representation that I highlighted in the May issue continues in good form. I am very pleased with the continuing submissions from across the world.

Key to our Developmental Approach: Rewriting

I want to once again welcome and encourage authors from any country to submit your aquatic work, both research and educational efforts, for publication. At *IJARE*, we are proud to take a developmental approach when we work with authors. If you are worried about your English language or writing skills, please consider submitting anyway. I promise to work with you. As long as your paper has a solid thesis or conceptual basis, we usually can help you bring your work to publication, maybe not on the first or even second revision, but eventually. Have I ever mentioned despising those journal rating systems that tout a high rate of rejection as evidence of quality? I think in some cases it may be evidence of poor or unwilling editing, not a proud mark of quality.

Recently, in my “day job” as a professor at Bowling Green State University, I received a wonderful bookmark from the university’s Writing Center. The bookmark was celebrating National Library Week (full disclosure: both my wife, Jeanne, and daughter, Caroline, are proud librarians). What I particularly liked about the bookmark is a quote from famous best-selling author, James Mitchner: “I’m not a very good writer, but I’m an excellent rewriter.” His quote is reminiscent of what my mentor and colleague, Mary Ann Robertson, tells our students: “All good writing is really just good rewriting, and rewriting, and . . .”. On the reverse side of the bookmark, the Writing Center has identified five revision strategies for writing that are just as germane for authors as they are for student writers. If you contact me (slangen@bgsu.edu), I would be glad to share a copy of the bookmark with you. My point in mentioning the bookmark and these two quotes about rewriting is that I believe rewriting indeed is what produces good writing. It certainly undergirds my developmental approach in facilitating the manuscripts submitted by our authors.

All Aquatics Welcome Here

I wonder if perhaps astute readers will perceive the decided “water safety” theme that seems to weave its way through the collected research articles and position statement in this August 2009 issue. You should know that it was not an intentional theme, but one that emerged as a result of the accepted articles ready for publication at this time. Of course, our mission at the *International Journal of Aquatic Research and Education* is to serve as a central mechanism for disseminating all manner of publications related to non-competitive aquatics.

While studies on water safety seem to dominate this current issue, I want to encourage authors of aquatic studies and papers dealing with aquatic exercise, therapeutic aquatics, aquatic facility design, recreational water illnesses, water treatment, aquatic instruction and curriculum, adapted aquatics, SCUBA, boating, diving, and any other aquatic topic area to submit their work for review and consideration for publication. *IJARE* will only continue to be successful to the extent that we maintain a broad representation of aquatic articles. Potential authors are welcome and encouraged to contact me (slangen@bgsu.edu) about prospective articles or other questions. As a reminder, *IJARE* publishes quarterly in print and electronic versions. All submissions and review processes use ScholarOne’s online Manuscript Central system that can be found at the following URL: http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/HK_IJARE. (FYI: HK and *IJARE* are separated by an underline in the URL).

Save the Date

It is never too early to plan ahead. Oslo, Norway will be the site for the next Biomechanics and Medicine in Swimming conference in June 2010 (less than 10 months away). It is my hope that the *International Journal of Aquatic Research and Education* will play a prominent role in publishing conference abstracts, or a special issue, or perhaps representative papers from the conference. As I have more information and especially a URL, we will publish it in an upcoming issue of *IJARE*. Stay tuned. I hope to meet many of you in person in Oslo.

Contributions in This Issue

This issue starts off with another of our guest editorials. In the current case, regular readers may recognize our editorialist from a previous contribution. Instead of expanding upon the topic of the editorial and spoiling our editorialist’s ironic surprise, I will just recommend that you begin your reading with this issue’s timely guest editorial. As always, reactions either pro or con are always welcome in the form of letters to the editor.

Following our guest editorial, you will find the seven solid research articles that comprise the body of the current issue. As I noted previously, six of the seven articles deal with topics around the theme of improving water safety (e.g., mechanisms of drowning, diving safety, rescues).

The first two articles were authored by a triumvirate of familiar authors, Stathis Avramidis, Ronald Butterly, and David Llewellyn, the first two affiliated with Leeds

International University and the third author from Cambridge University. Stathis is also affiliated with the European Lifeguard Academy (Greece). Very loyal readers may remember the first theoretical article by this threesome published back in 2007 in our first volume. In it they proposed the “4W Model” of drowning prevention. Since then, they have systematically explored three of the four components of their model. Back in February 2009 you may have read their contribution that explored characteristics of lifesavers and rescuers (the first “who”). In the current two contributions, the authors provide data from two studies, one a review of video about drownings and another from interviews with persons involved in drowning incidents. The first article explores the second “who,” characteristics of persons who were fatal or non-fatal drowning victims (readers note that this is the current terminology to replace “drowning” and “near-drowning”). The second article overviews the findings from the same two sources of data with an emphasis on the “where,” or location where drownings most frequently occur. I am certain these authors would relish any feedback readers may provide about their 4W model or the studies that are fleshing out their proposals from the model.

Our next research article is the only one that doesn’t directly deal with our issue’s inadvertent water safety theme. It is excellent nonetheless. Kelli Paquette and Jonathan “JB” Smith, both from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, have co-authored “An investigation of parents’ and children’s perceptions about their participation in a community-based swim team program.” Using a survey approach, they asked both parents and swimmers a set of intriguing “why do you do it” questions about the advantages and disadvantages of being members of a local age group swimming team. Those readers who run similar teams or who have been members of teams may identify with their findings.

Arturo J. Abraldes and Jorge Perez-Gomez from the physical activity department of the University of San Antonio, Murcia, Spain have co-authored an “Assessment of risk factors for injuries on beaches.” I believe readers will be interested to see how much the findings from this Spanish study generalize to your own observations at beaches around the world. On a personal editor’s note, Arturo and Jorge represent two of the very persistent authors I wrote about earlier who were willing to do several “rewrites” of their paper to better translate the meanings into more standard “American” English. I have a great deal of admiration for their perseverance. I doubt I could ever do a translation in the other direction from English to Spanish (or any other language, for that matter).

Richard Hsiao and Robert Kostelnik, both in Health and Physical Education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania co-authored the study, “Are university swimming pools safe? A model development: The prediction of the number of injuries in Pennsylvania university swimming pools.” I predict readers will find Richard and Robert’s statistical analyses and findings to be startling and noteworthy. As with the study of risks at Spanish beaches, I wonder how many readers from other states and countries may identify with some of the egregious safety problems our two authors uncovered in their study. I believe their recommendations should be heeded everywhere.

Our final two research articles come to us from authors “down under.” The penultimate article of the issue, “Home swimming pool design to improve diving safety,” was authored by Jenny Blitvich and Keith G. McElroy, in human movement and sport sciences at the University of Ballarat, as well as Brian Blanksby, human

movement and exercise science, University of Western Australia. These authors have done a remarkable job of exploring spinal cord injuries as they result from entries into swimming pools and how the design of pools can increase or decrease the risk. The article contains a list of recommendations for home pool owners to consider in the effort to make spinal cord injuries less likely in home pools. It is well worth reading and considering carefully.

My editor's award for "most fascinating title" goes to our final study, "'Flinging the squaler'—Lifeline rescues for drowning prevention," authored by Richard Franklin and John Pearn, both of the Royal Life Saving Society Australia. Besides the colorful and intriguing title, the article provides a concise study about the efficacy of learning how to do throwing rescues as a mechanism for saving drowning victims without imperiling the rescuer. It is worth the read.

Position Paper and Scientific Reviews

This issue wraps up with a new position paper from the National Drowning Prevention Alliance (NDPA), "Layers of protection around aquatic environments to prevent child drowning." I believe readers as well as other aquatic agencies and groups will find this position paper to be extremely comprehensive and provocative. It appears to build upon the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendations for "multiple barriers" as the most responsible means for reducing the risk and preventing childhood drowning.

The *International Journal of Aquatic Research and Education* welcomes similar position papers, statements, and scientific reviews from other non-profit aquatic agencies and groups. We believe such statements and papers fit well with our mission to promote best practices in aquatics and serve as a forum for the dissemination and discussion of critical aquatic issues. Members of aquatic agencies are encouraged to contact me about the publication of representative statements. I am anticipating some interesting additional submissions for our next (November) issue, including several inquiry-based reviews arising from several scientific review groups dealing with aquatic issues.

As always, enjoy your reading!

Steve Langendorfer, Editor
*International Journal
of Aquatic Research and Education*