



Department Head Notes

On February 19 and 20 I attended the annual Committee for Institutional Cooperation (CIC) Big Ten meeting at The(e) Ohio State University. The agenda included a number of common interests, some less common. A good deal of time was devoted to a *post mortem* of the recent visiting delegation from China. Other discussion items included 1) the comparative values of graduate tuition waivers, 2) trends in basic physical activity course offerings, and 3) follow-up on the 2008 Diversity Summit.

Of special interest was the discussion of the state of affairs at our respective universities. From Purdue, I reported briefly on our new hires J, the Director of Public Health search L, study abroad and service learning courses to both China and Swaziland, external funding submissions, research highlights, the new college proposal, and overall budget tightening at Purdue. Here's what's happening elsewhere (Iowa is no longer a member):

- **Minnesota:** 5% across the board budget cuts in 2008 and a 3% in 2009. Hiring and salary freeze. Consolidating departments, reviewing programs.
- **Wisconsin:** Second year of budget cuts, no salary increases for two years, hiring freeze. Six unfilled positions.
- **Michigan State:** 20% budget cuts over three years, recurring. Eliminated teacher education program (PETE). No salary freeze yet, and limited hiring.
- **Ohio State:** Cuts in travel and S&E, asked to plan for both a 5% and 10% budget cut scenarios. Hiring freeze for two years now, but had a 2.5% salary increase last year. Announcing financial exigency. Worried as much about 2012 as they are 2009 (when the stimulus money dries up). Six searches on hold.
- **Michigan:** Doing better than most because they are not as dependent on state money to the extent that most of us are. No salary freeze, no layoffs or furloughs, but procurement and travel budgets cut. Average salary increase last year was 2%.
- **Indiana:** Hiring in public health. Travel budgets cut. Faculty asked to generate 25% of their salary. Salary freezes this year. Going through transition to a School of Public Health. Some turmoil reported.
- **Illinois:** Without a President, Provost, Chancellor, and newly appointed Board of Trustees all due to recent admission scandal. Major budget issues. Asked to prepare 5%, 10%, and 15% budget cuts. Asked to give back 4.5% at mid-year this year. Eliminated undergraduate ATE program.
- **Penn State:** Successive 2% budget reductions for two years, hiring freeze until now. No state budget in PA, so no idea of the future predicaments. Situation not good.

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Maybe we should count our blessings? Have a good week and, as always, please do the best you can do in everything you do.

Notifications



December



- Online evaluations have been activated
- Students have until December 13th to complete online evaluations.
- Sunday 12/20—Commencement
- Tuesday 12/22—Grades due to Registrar

Congratulations!

Paper accepted for *Journal of Homeland Security and Emergency Management*:

George Avery Ph. D and Tim Wright PhD

"Does Federal Assistance to Health Departments for Bioterrorism Preparedness Improve Local Public Health? An Empirical Evaluation using the 2005 NACCHO Profile of Local Health Departments".

Published in the November issue of the *Journal of Physical Activity and Health*:

A paper written by Philip Troped PhD, Heather Whitcomb and colleagues from the University of South Carolina and Furman, "University Reliability of a brief intercept survey for trail use behaviors".

November Presentations

November 4-7

Cheryl Cooky, PhD and her colleagues, Michael Messner, Ph.D. University of Southern California and Jennifer Schumacher, California State University, Fullerton presented a paper "Gender in Televised NCAA Final Four: A Ten Year Comparison (1999-2009)" at the annual North American Society for the Sociology of Sport conference in Ottawa, Canada. The conference paper is part of a larger longitudinal study examining the amount and quality of men's and women's sport broadcasts and televised news coverage. The Center for Feminist Research at the University of Southern California and the Center for the Advancement of Responsible Youth Sport at California State University, Fullerton provided funding for the study.

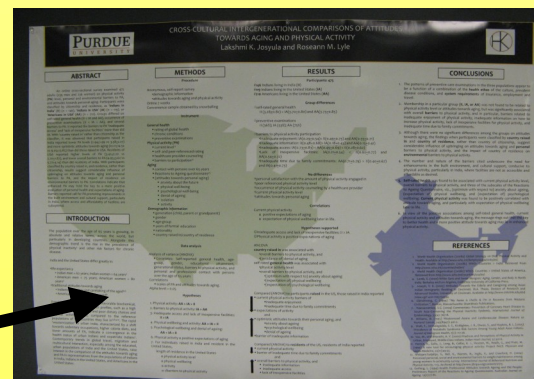


Heather Whitcomb presented a poster entitled "Validation of a Commercial Geographic Information Systems Database of Walking and Bicycling Destinations" at the annual conference for the Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS) in Dallas, TX. Co-authors included Dr. Troped, Kosuke Tamura, Sayali Kale and colleagues at Harvard School of Public Health, The Institute for Community Research, University of South Carolina, and Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Heather's attendance at the SACNAS conference was supported by scholarships from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences and the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation.



November 18-22

Rosanne Lyle Ph. D and Lakshmi Josyula presented a poster on "Cross-Cultural Intergenerational Comparisons of Attitudes Towards Aging and Physical Activity" at the 62nd Annual meeting of the Gerontological Society of America in Atlanta Georgia.



In Memory Of...Phil "The Dog"



Phil "the dog" Templin passed away on November 15, 2009 after a four month battle with cancer. Phil, an 8 year old Golden Retriever - Pyrenees mix, brought joy into the hearts of his family as well as so many others. He was a regular visitor to schools and senior centers through his work with Caring Paws. Also, he was the Operation Purple camp mascot and loved playing with the kids, camp director Blankenship, and many of the HK staff working the camp.

Obviously, Phil loved to eat, but more than that he loved to visit campus and hang with the college kids. He was a periodic visitor to Lambert and the Evans Scholars House. He also visited Indiana University's Sigma Chi house while Andrew Templin was a student there. According to Andrew he was a real "chick magnet", but he was most noted for his secret adventures at night into various rooms at the fraternity house in his hot pursuit of pizza. He disappeared one night only to be found in a drunken pizza stupor the next morning in a far away room. As many of you know, a barbecue at the Templin's was always a challenge with Phil around...he was quick and food disappeared in no time if one didn't protect his or her plate.



As you know, Phil was real ladies man. Not only did he love the coeds at Purdue, he was very hot for Rita Wright. Before Rita's untimely departure to Wisconsin, Phil and Rita could be seen walking together stealing a lick or two. They were regulars at Chicago Cubs games and served as bat dogs for the Cubbies (see picture of Phil on-duty in Wrigley). Opposites do attract as Rita weighed in at around 5 pounds while the big guy pushed 130. Rita died a few weeks ago and now Phil and Rita are together once again - stealing a lick!



Phil is survived by his loving family: Tom, Sarah, Kate (pictured), Andrew, and his step-brother, Henry or Hank (take your pick!).

Thanks to everyone for being Phil's friend. We will miss him.

To Show the Rest of the World We Belong

If there is any era in American sports history that generated magnificent hoopla, gee-whizzing, and socko-rocko it would have to be the touted and touting golden age of sports, the decade of the 1920s. Even non-sporting-types today are likely to know of the famed in that era, that fabulous five for instance: Babe Ruth, Bill Tilden, Red Grange, Jack Dempsey, and Bobby Jones. These athletes are still remembered for their feats mostly; one or two are remembered as well for their entertaining personalities or exaggerated habits: Babe Ruth was actually referred to as “America’s national exaggeration.” But to a one, they and many other athletes of the era were continuous front page copy throughout the roaring decade.



Charlie Wiggins 1926

But there were other, far lesser known sportsmen and sportswomen then who were just as magnificent—maybe even more so—even if they didn’t generate much in the way of public hoopla or gee whiz. One colorful sportsman in particular also happened to be of color. For starters you could say he was the Babe Ruth of the little known African-American automobile race car circuit, the Colored Speedway Association, and its annual Gold and Glory Sweepstakes, the 100 mile race regularly held at the Indiana State Fairgrounds in Indianapolis between 1924 and 1936. His name was Charlie Wiggins (1897-1979), a true socko-rocko black mechanic turned race car driver. Thanks to Todd Gould’s book *For Gold and Glory* (2003), we have come to know the dusty and bumpy roads Charlie Wiggins traveled in segregated America.

Wiggins was born in Evanston, Indiana, also the hometown of D.C. Stephenson, the Grand Dragon of the KKK for Indiana and 22 other Northern states. Not hard to imagine Wiggins’ early life. He started out as a shoeshine boy. Luck found him shining shoes in front of an auto repair shop where he got to learn the sights and sounds of the early American automobiles, many of which were made in Indianapolis—Duesenberg, Ford, Empire, Marmon, Stutz, Cole. He was given a chance to apprentice in the Evanston garage, learned to diagnose engine problems by ear, and quickly became known as the city’s best mechanic. Charlie married Roberta Sullinger, a local socialite five years his senior. They moved to Indianapolis in 1922 in hopes of making a better life for themselves. It wasn’t long before Charlie was tapped by a local garage owner, Louis Sagalowsky, to be a mechanic. Within two years, Sagalowsky decided to get out of the business. Wiggins, by then already recognized as the best mechanic in the downtown Indianapolis African-American neighborhood known as the Avenue, bought the garage.

This was fifteen years after the founding of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, a two-and-one-half-mile testing site and racing circuit. The first Indy 500 mile race was in 1911. The racing was both exciting for spectators and exhausting for the drivers. With leather aviator helmets and goggles and no roll bars, the drivers were in perpetual risk at speeds of 100 miles per hour: “There was no power steering, and drivers had to pump their own oil continuously throughout the race, while at



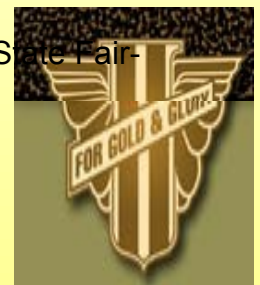
the same time applying the brakes, shifting gears, and steering at top speed through a maze of other drivers.” And that’s what Charlie Wiggins wanted to do, what he had to do: to race.

Wiggins had begun tinkering in his off hours at the shop building his own race car, the “Wiggins Special.” He built it out of junkyard scrap metal. He worked hard and long both on his thriving business and his self-styled racing machine. Life was better for Charlie and Roberta in Indianapolis, but they were haunted continuously by rampant racism. It

was almost a second job to protect his shop, his home, and himself from the local White Supremacy League (there were 40,000 Klansmen in Indianapolis then). Besides the routine vandalism and rock throwing, several League members would hide in the bushes outside his home, Roberta Wiggins recalled. “They’d jump out and attack Charlie when he went out. He’d fight them off every time. He’d just get mad. But I’d cry. Ever try to get the blood out of your husband’s shirt? That was the worst thing of all.”

If that weren’t enough, Wiggins also faced the Jim Crow “laws” in automobile racing. He was determined to be a first-rate race car driver, in addition to being a first-rate mechanic. But not only was the Speedway segregated, but the official Indy 500 race sanctioning body, the American Automobile Association (AAA), refused to allow any minority drivers in the races. Over the years, Charlie annually petitioned the AAA to drive in the Indy 500; he was denied permission every single year.

The inaugural Gold and Glory Sweepstakes attracted 15,000 race fans to the State Fair grounds. Charlie didn’t drive in the 1924 race. He didn’t think his car was ready. In his first race in 1925 he finished fifth, his engine failing in the 85th lap. Then in 1926 he won his first race, and three of the first six Sweepstakes. He was a natural driver behind the wheel of his mammoth machine, numbered 23 after the phrase “23 Skidoo,” a popular phrase of the day meaning to leave in a hurry. Wiggins had to modify his machine to even drive it. Standing five foot seven and hardly 100 pounds with wrenches in hand, he had to extend the pedals to reach them and raise the seat in order to see over the hood. Over the next decade in the Midwest black barnstorming racing circuit, he became known as the “Negro Speed King.” These dueling vagabonds raced one another in Chicago, Cleveland, South Bend, Indiana, Langhorne, Pennsylvania, and other Midwest towns and cities. “Never before in black sports,” writes Gould, “had an athlete risen to national acclaim so quickly.”



When Charlie was about to retire from racing, he figured the 1936 Gold and Glory Sweepstakes should be his final race. It was. Only 60 seconds into the race, one driver spun out on the dirt track. A 13-car pile-up followed. Wiggins was thrown from his car and run over. He survived, but one leg had to be amputated and he lost an eye. His racing days were over. The Colored



Speedway Association folded shortly afterwards.

Down but not out, Charlie made himself a wooden leg and marched right back into his auto repair and race car building business. He trained other mechanics and race car drivers and gave himself to the sport of auto racing another 40 years. What was so special about that commitment was that his giving was color blind. He made friendships with so many white mechanics and racers that he almost single handedly brought down the color line in Indianapolis racing circles, that is, at least among the doers—the racers and mechanics—not among the racing organizers and sanctioning bodies. One Wiggin’s friend, Al Warren, said of the white traffic into Wiggin’s shop that “They were bringing their cars to Charlie’s garage all the time. When Charlie helped them white boys, I don’t think he ever saw it as bridging racial gaps or anything as big and important as that. He was just helping friends and fellow drivers, that’s all.”

But Charlie wasn’t as gracious or forgiving towards the institution of racing itself. He fought over the years for the rights of black racers and mechanics to take their rightful role as professionals. Although humble by nature, if you got him to going on the unjust practices of the AAA, his emotional RPMs picked up dramatically: “We have the desire and skill to compete with the nations’ best. The AAA folks just don’t want to see that. That’s why we must work to prove our ability within our own ranks, so we can show the rest of the world that we belong.”



Colored Speedway Association officials, promoters of the Golden Glory Sweepstakes, Indianapolis

So many social changes for the better can often be traced back to the spunk and gumption of a single individual. Charlie Wiggins was a case in point. Historian Richard Pierce remembered Wiggins as “more than a driver, more than a mechanic. He was an icon. He was the best that we could be.” Nonetheless, it is still such sad commentary that any sportsman or sportswoman in this era had to be not just conscious of their unique skills and talents, but at the same time be the social conscience of our nation. Wiggins certainly displayed for all to see his skills and talents. But his lasting and lifelong impact was his display of moral courage to help show the world that his brothers and sisters truly and rightly belonged.

When Charlie Wiggins died in 1979, he was practically penniless due to years of accumulating medical expenses related to his racing accident. He was buried at the Crown Hill Cemetery in Indianapolis. His grave was unmarked.