

BlazeNotes

November 2008

BlazeNotes is a monthly publication of the BlazeSports Institute for Applied Science (BIAS) designed to provide new and emerging information on disability sport, physical activity and healthy lifestyles.

Submit your success stories, resources, and trainings for next month's newsletter by November 25, 2008. Send to mgalic@blazesports.org.

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2008 Paralympic Games Recap and Documentary on TV – Nov 9-16, 2008

NBC Sports (<http://www.nbcolympics.com/>) will air a 90-minute documentary about the 2008 Paralympic Games on Sunday, November 9, 2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. ET.

The show will feature a number of U.S. athletes as they train for and compete in the Games in Beijing. Additionally, the Universal Sports Network (<http://www.universalsports.com/>) will air 4-hour Paralympic Games programs each night, November 10-16, 7:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. ET.

Request for Research Participants

The University of Illinois at Chicago is partnering with BlazeSports America and other organizations serving youth with disabilities to conduct an internet-based survey with youth with disabilities aged 12-18 and their parents/caregivers on the lifestyle and environment of adolescents with disabilities. **Share the following link with your participating families by visiting the following link: www.healthforyouth.org and entering the access code: BLAZE1.** For more information, or if you have difficulty accessing the survey, please contact Brienne Davis in the Department of Disability and Human Development at bdavis7@uic.edu or 312-355-4054.

[Resources and Tools](#)

Weathering the Financial Crisis

Whether you are a government entity or a non-profit agency, everyone is feeling the pinch of the economic down turn. The non-profit sector offers some good advice on weathering this financial storm.

National Council of Non-Profits:

Read article: "Nonprofits and the Deepening State Fiscal Crisis"

<http://www.councilofnonprofits.org/?q=policynews/november2008>

Georgia Center for Non-Profits
See GCN's Tools for Managing through Tough Times
<http://www.gcn.org/Services/ToolsforToughTimes.aspx>

Social Marketing for Nutrition and Physical Activity

What is Social Marketing? Its "the application of commercial marketing techniques/technologies to the analysis, planning, implementation, and evaluation of programs designed to influence voluntary behavior of target audiences in order to improve their personal welfare and that of society." For all of us, we want youth and adults with physical disability to be more active and participate in physical activity such as sports. We may also want to influence policy makers to make changes to policy and the environment to improve accessibility and availability of programs for individuals with physical disability

The CDC's (Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity) recently announced the release of a new online training course titled: Social Marketing for Nutrition and Physical Activity. Check out www.cdc.gov/dnpa/socialmarketing to access the course (free of charge!) and many other social marketing resources.

Policy Issues

BlazeSports America is taking an active role in public policy affecting people with disabilities and particularly issues relating to sport, physical education and health. In this section, we will share information on local, state and national policy and advocacy issues that are timely and relevant to our work.

National Policy

GAO Study

Senator Tom Harkin, Chairman George Miller, Representative Carolyn McCarthy, and Representative Chris Van Hollen submitted a letter to the Government Accountability Office (GAO) requesting a study to analyze the state of physical education and athletic opportunities and participation for individuals with disabilities in our educational institutions. The letter asks the GAO to analyze the extent to which elementary and secondary schools are providing physical education and interscholastic, club or intramural sports opportunities for students with disabilities. It also asks GAO to look into how higher education institutions provide resources for intercollegiate, club or intramural sports programs for people with physical disabilities.

Presidential Transition

With the general elections behind us, so begins planning for the transfer of power from one administration to another on January 20, 2009. President-Elect Barack Obama has put a transition team in place and is moving swiftly in this post 9/11 environment to identify and vet potential cabinet officials. The disability advocacy community heralded President-Elect Obama's disability policy platform during the campaign and has high expectations for the new President on disability issues. You can follow the transition activities at www.change.gov

Conferences and Training Opportunities

We need your best practice and success stories!
Submit a presentation at www.blazesports.org

Connect · Innovate · Inspire

BlazeSports America's 10th Annual Disability Sport Conference

September 10-12, 2009 on the campus of Kennesaw State University, Georgia

The 2009 Conference is expected to be the best ever, with more than 30 interactive sessions on topics ranging from coaching to recruitment and program development. These sessions will be lead by the nation's top sports professionals; elite coaches and Paralympic athletes will share their cutting edge training techniques with attendees. Wheelchairs and other sporting equipment will be on hand to ensure a hands-on learning experience. Additionally, Conference attendees will have access to one-on-one consulting on fundraising, risk management, public relations, grant writing, and more. This is an excellent chance to meet the best minds in disability sport from across the country! **Continuing education credits** will be offered.

To submit a presentation, visit www.blazesports.org for forms, updates and more information.

Mark your calendar - BlazeSports Webinar Series

Top Ten Ways to Make Your Fitness Facilities Accessible

Tuesday Dec 16, 2008

World Congress on Disabilities Expo

Nov 21-22, 2008 Jacksonville, FL

WCD Expo is dedicated to improving the lives of those with developmental and physical disabilities, their families and professionals who work with them. The **WCD Expo** is an event with two main features: 1) see all of the latest products and services that are improving the lives of those with disabilities and 2) learn about issues facing the disability community from experts. Keynotes and Special Events are planned throughout the two days.

<http://www.wcdexpo.com/2008/fla/index.cfm>

Active Living Research Conference

February 18-20, 2009, in San Diego. The theme of this year's conference is *Active Communities for Youth and Families: Creating Momentum for Change*. For details, visit the conference website:

www.activelivingresearch.org/conference/2009

National Conference on Chronic Disease Prevention and Control

Cultivating Healthy Communities

February 23-25, 2009, Gaylord National Convention Center, Washington, DC

This conference will celebrate two decades of extraordinary progress in the prevention and control of chronic diseases and offer attendees opportunities to learn about successful chronic disease prevention efforts, best practices, and effective interventions used by their colleagues. For the first time, attendees will be invited to participate in the development of a conference **Call to Action**, a framework of both individual and collective actions to accelerate our progress in preventing disease and promoting health over the next 20 years. **Visit** www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/conference for updates and more information.

**Amputee Coalition of America – 2nd Annual Lobby Day
March 10, 2009, Washington DC**

The event will address adequate insurance coverage, other health care reform issues among others. Visit www.amputee-coalition.org/advocacy/lobby-day.

***The Future is Now* - First World Congress on Spina Bifida Research and Care
March 15-18, 2009, Orlando, Florida**

Hundreds of physicians, nurses and other healthcare practitioners will travel from around the country and around the world for this groundbreaking forum. SBA is currently accepting abstracts from national and international professionals in the multidisciplinary fields that deliver care and conduct research relevant to the Spina Bifida community. To submit an abstract or to register visit the meeting website at: <http://medicalconference.spinabifidaassociation.org>.

**Developing Amazing Leaders Paralympic Conference
April 17-20, 2009, Colorado Springs, CO**

The conference provides an opportunity for leaders of the Paralympic movement and those who want to start new programs to come together to share, learn and inspire one another. Online registration for the conference will open in early December. Visit <http://paralympics.teamusa.org/event/event/570> for more details.

**American Therapeutic Recreation Association – Annual Conference
Oct 2-6, 2009, Hyatt Regency Minneapolis**

The ATRA Annual Conference will be held at the Hyatt Regency Minneapolis. Visit <http://atra-online.com/cms/> for more information and to make room reservations 612-370-1234.

**3rd International Congress on Physical Activity and Public Health
May 5-8, 2010**

The Program Committee for the 2010 International Congress on Physical Activity and Public Health has selected “Mobilizing Research for Global Action in Policy and Practice” as the major title for the Congress. The title highlights the major goal of the Congress to provide leading edge research as the foundation for the development of future physical activity policies and programs. For more information on this exciting conference please view the Fall Newsletter at http://www.cflri.ca/icpaph/documents/Fall_08V12.pdf.

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