Greetings All! I hope everyone is enjoying a happy and healthy start to the New Year. I know there has been quite a bustle of activity over the past month or so with abstract submissions for our 51st Annual Meeting in Denver, Colorado. There has also been a lot of activity behind the scenes through the Fall and early Winter getting the NASPSPA website back on its feet and updated with new and efficient software architecture supported by Barnzilla Web Development. On behalf of the membership, I want to thank Daniela, Sarah, Leah, Penny and Joel Barnes (from Barnzilla) for their exceptional efforts to re-develop the website content to ensure its full functionality and supporting a seamless transition for membership registration and abstract submission.

The conference in Denver is shaping up to be outstanding. The Executive Committee had our fall meeting at the conference venue as well as opportunities to tour the facilities and sample the vibrant and diverse atmosphere of downtown Denver. It is truly a lovely city with dining and entertainment opportunities galore. As we all appreciate, Daniela and her organizing team have pulled together a fantastic set of speakers...
to serve as major attractions for everyone. The program committees are already fully engaged in the review process and this year’s collection of oral and poster presentations is once again certain to provide an unforgettable conference experience. I also know that Taylor has worked hard and imaginatively to set up some awesome academic and recreational activities for our student members. Please see Daniela’s and Taylor’s columns for more information on what’s in store.

I want to thank the members who took time and initiative to put forth nominations for the Distinguished Scholar and Early Career Distinguished Scholar Awards for 2018. There is a long list of outstanding nominees for each award and the Selection Committee will certainly have its work cut out. I also wish to thank those of you who nominated members to serve on the Executive Committee in the upcoming vacancies for President-Elect and Secretary-Treasurer. Elections for those positions will take place in the spring. Student members please remember that your nominations for Student-Representative should be submitted to Taylor Buchanan by the February 1, 2018 deadline.

As I mentioned earlier, our fall Executive Committee meeting was held in Denver. The meeting was very productive and we tackled some challenging issues. Much had to do with our review of the post-conference survey; formulating strategies to refresh and enhance the conference experience, as well as address the concerns expressed by the membership. A major topic of discussion was the transition out of our relationship with Human Kinetics, which has been tied to NASPSPA since its early years and ways to move forward autonomously. Many decisions still have to be made, but need to be tempered by consideration of the fact that we have a volunteer organizational structure and must respect the limits of our own abilities. Furthermore, we must be aware of and responsive to the emerging agencies that offer specialized support for conferences and other resource-efficient services that may best suit NASPSPA’s evolving needs.

As you may have noticed already, we also instituted some minor changes to membership and conference registration fee structure to align the fees for retired members with those for students and a new, intermediary level fee for post-doctoral fellows. There was also a great deal of exciting conversation about future conferences and, beyond Baltimore in 2019, we are looking at a diverse collection of venues that we hope will satisfy our members’ expectations for good value, attractive locations, and opportunities for fun and adventure. More information on that to come in the spring newsletter.

I’ll sign off with a reminder to our student members that there are funds available for numerous awards with application deadlines in the coming weeks. The Graduate Student Awards for International Conference Travel are valued at $700 and applications for the next round must be submitted by January 31, 2018. The Graduate Student Research Grants are valued at up to $2000 and applications must be submitted by April 1, 2018. To be eligible for these awards, students must be members in good standing, with dues for 2018 paid in full. Applications for these awards should be emailed to me (sbray@mcmaster.ca). Applications for the Outstanding Student Paper Awards are also due shortly and should be submitted by January 31, 2018 to the Area Program Chair.

Best wishes to all of you and I look forward to being in touch again in the spring.

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**Fall Executive Committee Meeting Minutes on September 22, 2017 held in Denver, Colorado can be found on the [NASPSPA website](http://www.naspspa.com).**
Past-President’s Column

NASPSPA in Denver: The Highlights

By Daniela Corbetta, NASPSPA Past President

By the time this newsletter is receiving its final touches and waiting to come out in print, our abstract submission site will still be receiving the last submissions, but I can already share some of the highlights of the conference. The area program chairs (Jeff Haddad, Jeff Fairbrother, and Anne Cox) have been working hard this past fall to secure excellent speakers for the conference. Three quite distinguished keynotes will be presenting their work. Gustaf Gredebäck from the University of Uppsala, Sweden, will tell us about the impact of infant social and motor exploration on cognitive development. Her research spans years of study on human eye movements and how they relate to our actions in natural and virtual environments. Her highly attractive research has many implications for visual attention and goal formation. She has extensively used eye-tracking to understand how vision and action work together in unrestricted environments and many of her eye-tracking recordings can be watched on her website, including an excerpt of her world famous “peanut-butter sandwich” study. I am really excited about the quality of this year’s speaker lineup. You can learn more about each of them by reading their short bios on the following pages.

Two Early Career Distinguished Scholars, Keith Lohse and Priscila Caçola, will also be giving their presentations at this year’s NASPSPA conference in Denver. Their bios were published in this fall’s newsletter and can be found on our naspspa.com website.

This past fall semester has also been a busy time for me working with some of our executive members and Joel Barnes (at barnzilla.ca, our new web programmer) to restore many of the essential functionalities of the NASPSPA.com website to our society. For years, Human Kinetics has worked with each past-president to insure a smooth abstract submission and review process for our annual conference and HK has also been managing memberships for us. This last spring HK announced that they would no longer provide those services to us, thus, we needed to figure out a new way to reinstate membership purchases and develop an alternative solution for conference planning. Joel Barnes came to us highly recommended by our friends at SCAPPS who hired him for their website. The executive committee also made the concerted decision to develop those functionalities directly on our website, following the SCAPPS model, rather than hiring an event company to assume those tasks. Working with Joel has been simply fabulous. He knew already how to solve many issues, having solved them previously for SCAPPS. In early November, our NASPSPA membership site was open and functional to receive membership purchases and on December 1st, we opened our brand new abstract submission site, also within our NASPSPA website. Once all abstracts are submitted, area program chairs will be given access to the site to begin their review process. This, of course, will be a test year to assess how the implementation of these new functionalities directly on our website will work for our society, but I am excited about the prospect that these functionalities are now completely owned by NASPSPA. This will remove having to rely on a “middle man” for many transactions and simplify the task of the executive committee which will have direct access to membership and conference related functions. I have also worked out an agreement with HK to continue to publish the conference abstracts as a supplemental issue of JSEP. All-in-all, I think this is an exciting transition for NASPSPA.

I will have more to share in our spring newsletter. For now, thank you all for your abstract submissions. As mentioned above, this is a year of transition, but we will do our best to announce acceptance in March. I look forward to seeing you in Denver and do not forget to check Penny’s column to learn details about the upcoming conference.
Conference Hotel Information and Reservations

**Important Note:**

For the last few years the hotel has sold out very early (by Feb 1 last year). We suggest you book your room immediately. Your credit card will be used to hold the room but will not be charged. All rooms are suites – they have a separate bedroom and a huge pull out couch in the living room.

The regular conference starts at 8 am on Thursday June 21. The conference room rate will be available until May 1 or until sold out. Again, I suggest you book as soon as possible.


A free full course breakfast and a free drink and snacks at happy hour are included in your hotel stay.

**Only Book Directly with the Hotel**

Recently, in the convention/annual meeting business, companies are inaccurately representing themselves as a “housing vendor” and contacting individuals to solicit business. Specifically, they will offer to make hotel reservations within the NASPSPA block on your behalf, or even offer you a discount from the NASPSPA rate.

NASPSPA is not utilizing any housing services for our 2018 Annual Meeting in Denver. Reservations for the 2018 Annual Meeting should be made directly with the hotel, either by phone or via their web reservation system using the links provided. If you provide your credit card information to any of these unauthorized vendors, your card may be charged but you may not have a reservation when you arrive in Denver. THIS IS A SCAM!

Some traditional pirate company offenders are:

(DO NOT USE):
- Convention Housing Authority
- Corporate Booking Services (CBS Inc.)
- Event Travel Planners
- Exhibitors Housing Management
- Exhibitors Housing Services
- Expo Housing Services
- Global Expo
- Global Housing Services Corporation
- Global Travel Partners
- National Travel Associates

Use this link to make your reservations

Information on airport transportation and other details will be posted on the web site. Attendees should fly into Denver International Airport.

**Conference Registration Fees**

Conference registration will open by mid January on the website. Remember you must be a NASPSPA member to attend, so make sure your membership is up to date. If you have any questions about hotel or conference registration email naspspa@hotmail.com.

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Conference Hotel Information and Reservations

Important Conference Dates

December 1, 2017: Website is open for all presentation submissions (symposia, posters, verbal presentations). Anyone buying a membership from this date onwards will be given 2018 membership.

January 15, 2017: Deadline submission date

March 1-15, 2018: Decisions for presentations announced

June 21-23, 2018: Conference in Denver

Lots to do around Denver!
NASPSPA Speakers

Early Career Distinguished Scholar Presentations

At the 2017 conference, we announced the recipients of the Early Career Distinguished Scholar Award. The recipients were Dr. Priscila Caçola and Dr. Keith Lohse. These scholars were recognized for their exceptional achievements while “still in the early stage of their scientific careers. More information about the recipients was published in the fall 2017 newsletter. The recipients will be giving presentations at the 2018 conference in Denver. Priscila Caçola’s Early Career Distinguished Scholar presentation is titled “A little clumsy and full of problems: Mechanisms and consequences of Developmental Coordination Disorder”. Keith Lohse’s Early Career Distinguished Scholar presentation is titled “Exploring Measurement and Methodology in Motor Behavior”.

Human Kinetics Lecturer

Mary Hayhoe received her Ph.D. from the University of California San Diego in 1980 and was a member of the Center for Visual Science at the University from 1984-2005. In 2006, she moved to the Center for Perceptual Systems at the University of Texas Austin. She is an editor for the Journal of Vision and was on the VSS Board from 2011-2016. She has been a leader in developing experimental paradigms for the investigation of natural visually guided behavior in both real and virtual environments. She has particular expertise in human eye movements in natural environments, especially how gaze behavior relates to attention, working memory, and cognitive goals.

Sport and Exercise Psychology Keynote

Andrew J. Elliot is a Professor of Psychology at the University of Rochester. He has held Visiting Professor positions at Cambridge University, King Abdulaziz University, Oxford University, and the University of Munich, and has been a Visiting Fellow at Churchill College (Cambridge) and Jesus College (Oxford). He received his Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1994. His research focuses on achievement motivation and approach-avoidance motivation. He is currently editor of Advances in Motivation Science, and has over 200 scholarly publications. He has received multiple awards for his teaching and research contributions to both social-personality and educational psychology. He has given keynote or university addresses in more than 20 different countries, and his lab regularly hosts professors, post-docs, and graduate students from around the globe. He is currently president-elect of the Society for the Science of Motivation.

The 2017 recipients of the Early Career Distinguished Scholar Award, Dr. Keith Lohse and Dr. Priscila Caçola
Motor Development Keynote

Gustaf Gredebäck is a professor of developmental psychology at Uppsala University, Sweden. His research examines how social and cognitive processes develop through an infant’s own active exploration of their physical and social world. A common theme is the notion that action impacts cognition (embodied cognition). Recent publications suggest that motor development is essential for the development of social cognition and executive control while ongoing work assess the association between active exploration and the acuity of the approximate number system. His approach includes experimental work, correlational studies, and interventions where motor competences and active exploration are used to boost cognitive development. Gredebäck is the manager of the Uppsala Child and Baby Lab that includes over 30 researchers and Ph.D. students dedicated to the study of early cognitive development using eye tracking, motion capture, and EEG (www.babylab.se).

Motor Learning/Control Keynote

Stephen Scott is the inaugural holder of the GSK-CIHR Chair in Neuroscience and Professor in the Department of Biomedical and Molecular Sciences at Queen’s University (http://www.queensu.ca/limb/home). He received a B.A.Sc. and a M.A.Sc. in Systems Design Engineering from the University of Waterloo, and a Ph.D. in physiology from Queen’s University. His research program includes basic research on voluntary motor control including studies on human and non-human primates, and clinical research on the use of robots for neurological assessment. He has published over 125 journal articles and given over 170 invited talks. He is the inventor of the KINARM robot and is actively involved in the development of advanced technologies for use in basic and clinical research. He is Co-Founder and Chief Scientific Officer of BKIN Technologies that commercialises the KINARM robotic platform. Dr. Scott will deliver a keynote lecture entitled ‘Fast feedback processing allows us to move and interact in a complex world’.

Motor Learning/Control Senior Lecturer

Diane Ste-Marie is a full professor at the University of Ottawa in the School of Human Kinetics. Her research interests span a number of areas related to enhancing motor skill acquisition and performance. Learning variables of primary interest in her laboratory include the use of observation, self-controlled learning and focus of attention. She has served as Communication Director and President of NASPSPA, as well as President of the SCAPPS. She has served in a variety of ways for key journals associated with research on her topics of interest, such as being an associate editor for Frontiers in Psychology: Movement Science and Sport Psychology, an editorial board member of Psychology of Sport and Exercise, and most recently she was associate editor of the Journal of Motor Learning and Development, one of the official journals of NASPSPA.
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**NASPSPA Speakers**

**Motor Development Senior Lecturer**

Jackie Goodway is a faculty member in the area of motor development in the Kinesiology area of the Department of Human Sciences at The Ohio State University. Dr. Goodway's research agenda focuses on issues associated with the evaluation and promotion of motor skill development and physical activity interventions in young children from disadvantaged communities. Her evidenced-based motor skill and physical activity program called SKIP (Successful Kinesthetic Instruction for Preschoolers) has been implemented across the USA and 8 different countries across 3 continents. She has published 58 peer-reviewed articles, over 100 published abstracts, 12 book chapters, and over 180 international and national presentations in this area. She has co-authored one of the leading textbooks in motor development. Dr. Goodway has received the Lolas E. Halverson Young Investigator award from the Motor Development Academy of the National Association of Sport and Physical Education (NASPE) and the Mabel Lee Award from the American Alliance of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (AAHPERD). Dr. Goodway was inducted as a Fellow of the Research Consortium of AAHPERD and a Fellow of the North American Society of Health, Physical Education, Recreation, Sport and Dance Professionals. Dr. Goodway has also served on NASPE’s Professional Preparation & Research Steering committee and chaired the revision of the “Active Start” national physical activity guidelines for the 0-5 year olds. She has also served as a consultant on the development of Nickelodeon Fit, a Wii video game to promote physical activity for preschoolers. Dr. Goodway actively works across the world to promote motor development and physical activity for young children in underserved communities.

**Sport and Exercise Psychology Senior Lecturer**

Dan Gould is the Director of the Institute for the Study of Youth Sports and Professor in the Department of Kinesiology at the Michigan State University. As director, he focuses his efforts on achieving the Institute’s mission which is to provide leadership, scholarship and outreach that transforms the face of youth sports in ways that maximize the beneficial physical, psychological and social effects of participation for children and youth while minimizing detrimental effects. Dan has over 200 scholarly publications and has been invited to speak on sport psychology topics in over 30 countries. His research has been funded by organizations such as the US Olympic Committee, the US Tennis Association, the US Anti-Doping Agency, and the National Wrestling Coaches Association. Three research-based children’s sports texts have been co-edited by Dan and he served as one of the founding co-editors of The Sport Psychologist.
Hello NASPSPA student members! 2018 is officially here. Hope everyone had an enjoyable holiday season and is back with a fresh outlook that only the new year can bring. As you begin to prepare for the upcoming semester, please take a few minutes to read through the award opportunities for NASPSPA student members and the arrangements for the upcoming conference in Denver. If you are short on time, check out the details on the website, and do not forget to join the NASPSPA Facebook page.

**Student Awards:**

NASPSPA offers three awards for student members. A brief overview of each award is provided below. More details about each award can be found here.

Each year, one Outstanding Student Paper Award may be presented for each of three research areas (Motor Development, Motor Learning and Control, and Sport and Exercise Psychology). To apply for the award, simply indicate you would like your conference abstract considered. After the January 17th deadline, you have until January 31st to turn in a long abstract (no more than 5-pages) and a letter of recommendation from your advisor. Winners receive a monetary award and are recognized at the annual business meeting.

NASPSPA also offers Graduate Student Awards for International Travel. This $700 award helps students present their work at conferences outside of North America. The application package includes a short abstract, long abstract, and a letter of recommendation from your advisor. Three competitions are hosted each year, and applications are due before September 30, January 31, and May 31.

Lastly, the Graduate Student Research Grant is designed to assist NASPSPA students’ scholarly activity. Awards of up to $2,000 are provided to aid with research costs. Application packages include the following: an outline of the proposed study, verification of Institutional Review Board approval, estimated budget, and a current CV. Your advisor must also submit a letter of recommendation and a statement of evaluation and approval for the proposed budget. Application materials should be sent to Dr. Steve Bray prior to April 1, 2018.

**Conference Activities**

The conference in Denver is approaching quickly! Registration for the conference includes an opportunity to sign-up for the student-social as well as the student-faculty luncheon. The cost to register is $10 for each event. Due to popularity, I encourage you all to sign up early and reserve your spot. Registration will also include the opportunity to participate in the Three Minute Thesis (3MT) competition for first author abstract submissions. We will also hold a student scavenger hunt, which includes a raffle for free registration for the 2019 conference. Details for the student social are finalized. We will be at Wynkoop Brewing, which is a laidback pub, complete with billiards and shuffleboard, within walking distance from the hotel. Your $10 ticket provides you with a drink voucher as well as finger foods at the pub. This is an amazing opportunity to meet other student attendees from all over the world and have fun making new friends! Check out the venue in advance at [http://www.wynkoop.com](http://www.wynkoop.com) -- and then sign up when registering for the conference. It should be a great experience!

We will also be hosting a student-faculty luncheon on Thursday, June 21st. This event serves as an opportunity for students to meet a diverse group of faculty and ask a variety of questions ranging from the academic interview process to their hobbies. The format of this event will be different from previous years. Each table will focus on a specific topic (e.g., grant writing, job applications, overseeing a research lab). A
limited number of spots are available for this function, so register early. The list of faculty who are attending is being finalized, but will include a diverse group from each research area as well as a variety of career stages.

The 3MT will give students an opportunity to develop communication skills in a brief amount of time, while presenting to an audience with and without experience in their area. Students who submit a poster as a first author will be asked if they would like to compete. Reviewers will select the best abstracts in each area, and those selected will compete at the conference. The final winner will receive free conference registration for 2019.

There will be a scavenger hunt sheet given to each student at the registration table. It provides an opportunity to meet other students and faculty. If you get nervous when approaching people to network with, this is a great excuse to at least introduce yourself! The scavenger hunt will be going on throughout the whole conference. You must turn in a completed sheet to have a ticket entered into the raffle. The raffle winner will be announced on the final day. The winner will receive free registration for the 2019 conference.

Opportunities to help at conference

Each year we have about five students who volunteer to help with registration and other events at the conference. The students work with Penny McCullagh (conference site director) and volunteer about 10 hours of time. Penny likes to make this a learning opportunity, so students first select what conference sessions they will attend, and then they work with her on other tasks throughout the conference. This is an excellent opportunity to meet and greet everyone as they come to the conference. In return for volunteering, students receive free conference registration.

If you are interested in helping - send an email to naspspa@hotmail.com. Put “Student Volunteer” in subject line. Give your name, University, year of program (e.g. 1st year Ph.D. student), advisor name, and one brief sentence about why you want to volunteer. Please include your phone number. Do so no later than February 15th.

Student Representative

The deadline to apply for the 2018-2019 NASPSPA Student Representative position is open until February 1, 2018. If you are interested in acting as the liaison between the executive committee and the NASPSPA student body, please email taylorbuchanan@ufl.edu.

Communication

A Facebook group for NASPSPA student members is also available! The group is a platform for NASPSPA student members to communicate with each other. It can be used to find roommates for the conference, facilitate discussions among graduate students, as well as post NASPSPA student announcements. I will be adding details about the student social, the student-faculty luncheon, and other informal student social opportunities at the conference to this page. Please check it out here!

Looking forward to seeing everyone in June!