

**The History of the Christian Society of Kinesiology, Leisure and Sport Studies:
A Twenty Two Year Legacy**

A Paper Presented

by

Don Lawrence, EdD

At

2011 CSKLS Conference

The College of the Ozarks, Branson, Missouri

Introduction:

As we begin this review of the history of the Christian Society for Kinesiology, Leisure and Sport Studies (CSKLS), it is good to ask: Why study history? One of my professors at Brigham Young University, Dr. Ruel Barker, shared the following with the Western States Kinesiology Society:

Although its focus is the past, history can bring to the present important insights and information that may be useful in forming better understandings of today's issues and problems. A more insightful understanding of these can help shape a more intelligent and positive future. Because the two (past and present) are closely linked in human cultures, the historian must be concerned with examining both events and ideas. (Barker, 2010)

Without a good sense of the history of CSKLS, we may misunderstand the present, the events and issues that challenge our perspectives and beg for resolution. This paper will summarize the roots and foundations of CSKLS and the significant players in its development, especially in the first ten years.

The Roots of CSKLS

In the 1960's, two Christian graduate students in the Recreation Curriculum at the University of North Carolina, Joe Teaff and Glen Van Andel, began to discuss the role of leisure in society and the Christian community in particular. The Puritan work ethic was a dominant cultural tradition, especially in the church where idleness was often perceived as "the devils workshop."

But, they believed that God also created humans to play and to enjoy his creation through recreation, dance, and sport. The work ethic had created an imbalance that needed to be redeemed. Unfortunately, there were relatively few Christian scholars who were writing on these topics and presentations on a Christian perspective on play and recreation were not being accepted at national professional conferences. This reality began to define the need for a more supportive environment for Christian scholarship in recreation and leisure studies.

The decades of the 60s, 70s and 80s were challenging times for Christian scholarship, especially if you hoped to publish in secular journals or present at national professional conferences. This antagonistic attitude toward Christian perspectives was expressed by the sociologist Gail Sheehy in, *The New Passages* where she observed, "...in the 1980's, there was a suspension within our society of our spiritual selves that I am not sure we will ever recover

from" (Sheehy, 1995). Vaclav Havel, a noted philosopher and former president of the Czech Republic, also commented on the paradox of that era.

"Experts can explain anything in the objective world to us, yet we understand our own lives less and less. We live in the post-modern world, where anything is possible and almost nothing is certain. Awareness and acknowledgement of a higher authority have been shunted into the realm of magic and mysticism. The concept of a Creator or an Earth Mother who anchors us in the universe, not for ourselves alone but as an integral part of some higher, self-perpetuating universal order, represents an affront to modern science and technology and gets in the way of arrogant human aspirations. But there must be a reason that we are living so much longer. What are we to do with all this leftover life? The only hope of people today is probably a renewal of our certainty that we are rooted in the Earth and at the same time, the cosmos" (Sheehy, 1995).

In 1980, Van Andel joined the faculty at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, MI where he felt a call to implement his vision for a more balanced Christian perspective on recreation and leisure. Calvin promoted a Reformed worldview that believed that all of creation, including work, play and worship, were under the Lordship of Jesus Christ and as such could be used to glorify God. This academic culture provided the context for scholarship in this relatively new field of recreation and leisure studies and would lead Van Andel to Indiana University for doctoral studies in recreation. Dr. Tony Mobley, Dean of the Health, Physical Education, and Recreation Division, had done some work in church recreation and he became Glen's mentor for further academic study.

It was also at IU that Van Andel met other Christian doctoral students who expressed interest in integrating their faith with their discipline. Tom Visker, a faculty member from Dordt College, and Dale Adkins, a Baptist seminary graduate, became good friends who encouraged each other in their efforts to apply their Christian faith in their scholarship.

Later, in 1986, Paul Heintzman, a young scholar from Ottawa, Canada, sent an abstract to the Research Symposium of the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) for presentation at the annual conference. Although the 1986 proposal entitled "Leisure and Spirituality" was rejected, the following year Glen Van Andel was on the review committee and the paper was accepted in a blind review. Heintzman and Van Andel met at the 1987 NRPA

conference, encouraged that a Christian paper could be presented at a secular professional conference. Van Andel noted that, "we knew that it was still a difficult challenge, but, we had some things to say in our scholarship and we felt that God had called us to do just that."

It was through the synergy of these collegial relationships that the early roots of The Christian Society of Kinesiology, Leisure and Sport Studies was envisioned and created. Each of these individuals believed that a forum was needed to support and share Christian scholarship that was so essential to our respective disciplines. It all came together in 1989.

CSKLS Early Years

1989 Christianity and Leisure Conference, Calvin College

On June 15, 1989, the first Research Symposium on Christianity and Leisure was held at Calvin College. In his conference introduction, Van Andel stated:

"This conference is a light for the city on the hill. It is an historic moment in our profession as we gather as a group of believers to 'provide a forum to explore and share ideas and perspectives that integrate the tenets of the Christian faith with theoretical and practical issues in the Leisure Science field. The ultimate goal of the symposium is to stimulate and promote research and study in the area of Christianity and leisure. Although the intended focus will be toward those persons directly involved in leisure sciences, scholars from other disciplines such as Theology and Philosophy are also welcome to attend'" (Van Andel's opening symposium statement for the 1989 conference).

The keynote address was delivered by Dr. David Ng, Dean of the School of Physical Education and Recreation at Brock University, St. Catherine's, Ontario, Canada. He stated that, leisure was part of God's divine rhythm and that we can become more fulfilled through the worthy use of leisure time.

Other presenters were: Dr. Tom Visker from Dordt College, Dr. Dale Atkins from Western Kentucky University, Dr. Gordon Dahl, Dr. Joe Teaff from Southern Illinois University and Dr. Gordon Spykman from Calvin College's Religion and Theology. (See Addendum for list of attendees).

Tom Visker noted, "we all enjoyed sharing ideas, thoughts and concepts. So, the question was: How do we pull together other Christians in the discipline so they can also engage in this kind of activity?" Both Visker and Heintzman observed that it was Van Andel's

driving force that kept this dream alive. But Glen quickly adds, "I must say that it was not just me. I must give credit to my two friends, Tom and Paul, who came along side me and helped me develop the next few conferences. Of course, with it being on the Calvin campus I did much of the leg work, but without their ideas and support and suggestions we would not be what we are today."

Heintzman noted that first conference was a personal thrill for him as he met, Gordon Dahl, one of the authors who he greatly respected and admired. Unfortunately, Dahl contracted cancer that fall and by the spring had passed away. However, his family left a legacy of several thousand dollars to the conference that was designated the "Gordon Dahl Fund" to be used for special projects such as publications or mentoring.

1990 Conference, Calvin College

Inspired by the success of the first symposium, Van Andel published a newsletter in January 1990, *Christianity & Leisure Symposium News*, announcing the second symposium and featuring such well-known authors Dr. Robert K. Johnston and Dr. Leland Ryken. Dr. Johnston, Provost at North Park Theological Seminary in Chicago and author of *The Christian at Play*, provided the keynote address on the topic, "Work and Play: A Biblical Perspective." Dr. Ryken, a professor of English at Wheaton College, spoke on the "Myths of the Protestant Work Ethic" based on his extensive research from historical Puritan sources. Others who presented to the sixteen attendees that year were Paul Heintzman, Glen Van Andel, David Ng, Joe Teaff and Marv Zuidema.

The second newsletter, *Christianity & Leisure Symposium News* published in May of 1990, provided a Credo that summarized the key elements to which evangelical Christianity and this symposium ascribed. The participants felt there should be a set of theological guidelines to define 'Christianity' and how it relates to our disciplines and the symposium. It stated:

We believe that:

1. Jesus Christ is the Son of God and through His atonement is the mediator between God and man;
2. The Word of God expressed in the Bible is inspired by God and is authoritative in the development of Christian faith and practice; and
3. The Christian faith has significant implications for our theoretical and practical understanding of work, leisure and recreation.

These tenants have remained the foundation of CSKLS' unique identity within both our profession and our society. From Visker's perspective, "that is what sets us apart from other

professional organizations." But the strength of this emerging organization was not just the shared information and ideas, but in the strong relationships and friendships that were being developed by fellow Christian professionals. Visker noted, "The organization really reflects our founder. Although his specialty is in therapeutic recreation, his approach has been eclectic. He tries to reflect Christ in all he does, and he does it with humility." Heintzman concurs: "Year after year Glen has always been involved, supportive and never wants any credit." Leadership sets the tone for an organization, and Van Andel's commitment to Christ certainly has influenced all who have followed in leadership positions.

1991 Conference, Calvin College

The 1991 December issue of *Christianity & Leisure Symposium News* featured a new 'twist' to the July 11-13, 1991 conference. Shirl Hoffman, Professor and Chair of the Department of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance at the University of North Carolina-Greensboro, delivered the keynote address stating, "the impulse to play is a divinely implanted impulse, but that sports and games are human inventions and therefore are open to criticism. Yet sport is rarely analyzed in comparison to art and music. Rather, sport is seen as good, clean fun in the midst of a variety of entertainments. If and when sport is analyzed, it is the "how to" rather than the "why" questions. Hoffman believes the "why" questions must be considered. Unless sport has some spiritual significance, it cannot be justified."

This conference expanded the scope of disciplines to include sport, athletics and physical education by including papers from Murray Hall from Trinity Western University who spoke on "Christian Ethics in Sport: Is it possible?"; Dr. James Mathisen from Wheaton College presented "Toward an Understanding of 'Muscular Christianity': Religion, Sport and Culture in the Modern World"; and Dr. David Stirling, also from Trinity Western University, spoke on "Competition in Church Sport Leagues".

Tom Visker stated, "For me it was a positive move since it opened up the conference to areas in which I had great interest such as the 'teacher-coach' model which was prevalent at that time." However, this became a concern for some of the original founders such as Paul Heintzman who felt that the mission of the symposium was to focus on play, recreation, and leisure studies. His concern was that the Society may be overwhelmed by the emphasis on kinesiology, wellness, sport and athletics rather than leisure studies. It's an issue that is still debated and discussed today.

1992 The year of the CCCU Conference

As a result of some discussions with the Christian Coalition of Colleges and Universities to promote the ideals of the Christianity and Leisure Symposium to other related disciplines, the CCCU hosted an 'invitation only' conference in the summer of 1992 at Northwest Nazarene College in Nampa, ID. Representatives from many CCCU schools who taught health, physical education, dance and sport (HPERDS) came together to discuss their common vision of integrating their faith with their respective disciplines. These discussions laid the foundation for broadening the scope of the conference and ultimately establishing the Christian Society for Kinesiology, Leisure and Sport Studies (CSKLS) some ten years later.

1993 Conference, Calvin College

Since there had not been an open conference in 1992 and in an attempt to attract more participants, the fourth annual conference was held in January at Calvin College. Although several new conferees joined the core group, the winter event still drew only twenty participants. The theme was "Leisure, Sport and Popular Culture" and the keynote speaker was Dr. Quentin Schultz, Professor of Communications at Calvin College who spoke on, "From the Super Bowl to Worship: The roles of stories in work and leisure." Other presentations included Bill Romanowski from Calvin College; Bob Day from Kings College in Canada; Ed Douma, the head basketball coach at Calvin College; James David Hunter; John Byl from Redeemer College in Ontario, Canada; Randy Bremmer from Holland, MI; Russell Heddendorf from Covenant College; Gwen Wright from the Lesley Graduate School in Denver, and Don DeGraaf from Longwood College in Virginia.

Also featured at the conference was Heintzman's and Van Andel's new co-edited book, *Christianity and Leisure: Issues in a Pluralistic Society*, which was a compilation of papers presented at the previous conferences.

1994 Conference, Calvin College

Given the support and interest of CCCU in expanding the scope of the conference, Van Andel distributed the following memorandum to all CCCU schools:

"Due to the interest of the Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (HPERD) faculty in the Christian College Coalition, we have decided to join forces

to accomplish our common vision of promoting Christian scholarship among members of our kindred disciplines. With this slightly expanded mission, we have moved the conference back to June 8-11, 1994. We are excited about these plans and the potential it might have for all of us and hope that you will make plans to attend" (August, 1993).

The change in dates along with the broadening of the scope of research presentations attracted over 40 attendees that year. The conference also had a new title: HPERD Conference on Christianity, Sport, Leisure and Wellness. It was a pivotal year for the symposium and the organization as more Christian professionals had found a forum for sharing their scholarship.

Dr. David Larson from the National Institute for Healthcare Research in Rockville, MD. keynoted the conference with a presentation on, "Spirituality and well being: Conflict or Correlation?" Dr. Larson noted the substantial research that supported the positive role one's religious convictions played in health and wellbeing.

Due to the increase in papers, the conference had to institute multiple tracks, which created the dilemma for participants who had to make difficult choices. This was part of the growing pains for an expanding conference. Van Andel noted: "When we opened the door for more presentations from a broader range in our related disciplines, that is when the excitement began to grow."

1995 Conference, Calvin College

Once again the 1995 conference was held at Calvin College on June 14-17. The keynote speaker was Dr. Jerry Pattengale, Director of the *Night of Champions*, Azusa Pacific University who presented a practical way to integrate one's faith and discipline. He described APU's outreach to 5000 high school athletes each year through a program called, "The Nite of Champions." Others that presented that year were Tony Ladd, Wheaton College; Scott Armstrong, Malone College; Tim Voss, Trinity College; Paul Heintzman, Director of Gracefield Presbyterian Camp and Conference Center, Quebec, CAN.; Peggy Hothem, Gordon College; Bob McCollum from Slippery Rock University; Dale Adkins from Western Illinois University; Allison McFarland, Eastern College; Cathy O'Keefe from the University of South Alabama; Jim Timmer from Baldwin Wallace University; Glen Van Andel from Calvin College; Glenn Towne from Wheaton College and Karen Clemente from Eastern College.

One interesting note was that at the end of the conference it was announced that next year's conference would be held at Messiah College, Grantham, PA. It was the first time for a CCCU school other than Calvin to host the HPERD conference.

1996 Conference, Messiah College, Grantham, PA

The conference was becoming quite popular for Christian kinesiology and leisure studies professionals as a forum for presenting their research and scholarly work in a supportive environment. In total, there were 16 papers delivered with spirited conversation that followed each presentation. Following the conference, Messiah offered to host the 1997 conference as well.

Conclusion

Each of the following year's conferences was unique in its own way, and each year relationships grew deeper and stronger. Concurrently, the organization was growing and becoming a dynamic influence in both leisure and kinesiology philosophy and methodology.

However, there are also concerns and issues that the consortium of scholars must address in the future. Certainly, our larger secular organizations keep us informed of significant issues and of developing research and we certainly are thankful for their annual pioneering in our respective disciplines. But as Christ-followers, we need to be bold with our research, strong in our scholarly presentations and most of all, be models to the world that the integration of faith and learning is not something to be ignored, but cherished. In this post-modern age, the world is beginning to see the need for spirituality, but many are looking in the wrong places. May we, as an organization of Christian professionals be leaders in our fields and do all to the glory of God.

Formalizing CSKLS:

Although annual conferences were being held, there was no attempt to organize as a formal professional society until early in the twenty first century. Then, in the winter of 2000, Heintzman attended a presentation on "How to start a society." The following year, Van Andel attended the Council of Christian Scholarly Societies in Chicago at which several Christian academic societies shared their stories on how they started their societies. It was these events,

that inspired the drafting of the charter and by-laws for Christian Society of Kinesiology and Leisure Studies.

In 2003, CSKLS received its official charter from the state of Michigan. Shortly after, an Interim Board was elected to finalize the details for the organization including establishing procedures for membership, election of officers, a logo, and a website.

Epilogue

Business theorists Hershey and Blanchard (1988) identify two key components in every organization that leaders must recognize, the task and the relationships.

- The Task is the extent to which the leader engages in defining what, who, when, where, and how one is to participate in: 1) Goal setting; 2) Organizing; 3) Establishing time lines; 4) Directing; and 5) Controlling
- The Relationship factor is defined as the extent to which a leader engages in two-way (multi-way) communication, listening, facilitating behaviors, and giving socio-emotional support.

It is evident at this point in CSKLS' history that not only was the task being accomplished by those who were leading, but even more so was the strong sense of relationship and bonding taking place amongst the attendees. From my experience with the society, I would attribute the strong relational factors to: 1) The leadership consistently focused on the mission of the organization; and 2) a strong sense of community developed because Christ was always at the center of each conference. The conferences became the body of believers in action because serving Christ through our disciplines was its commonality. Members looked forward to seeing old friends and colleagues and they began to relish the time spent on 'catching up' with one another from the previous year. At the Messiah conferences, for example, love and care for each other started from the beginning but it became more real and evident to all that year as prayer and concern for "not just casual, once a year friendships, but a real caring for each other" seemed to emulate from the conference.

Other long-time members have documented the impact CSKLS has made in their lives and their comments can be found in the Addendum.

References

- A.A.H.P.E.R.D. 2011. *PE2020 Forum: Rethinking the future of PE*. NASPE NEWS. Spring edition.
- CSKLS 2010. Archives of the Christian Society of Kinesiology and Leisure Studies. Various Papers and Documents. Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI.
- Heintzman, P. 2010, June. Personal communication.
- Hersey, P., Blanchard, K. 1988. *Management of Organizational Behavior: utilizing human Resources*. 5th ed. Prentice Hall, Englewood Cliffs, NJ.
- C.S.K.L.S. 1990. *Symposium News, 1st ed.* Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI.
- C.S.K.L.S. 1991. *Symposium News, 2nd ed.* Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI.
- C.S.K.L.S. 1993. HPERD Conference on Christianity and Leisure and Wellness. Official Program. Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI.
- C.S.K.L.S. 1993, August. Memorandum: Van Andel, G. to Heintzman, P.
- C.S.K.L.S. 1994. HPERD Conference on Christianity, Sport, Leisure and Wellness. Official Program. Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI.
- C.S.K.L.S. 1995. *Christianity and Leisure Symposium News*. Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI.
- C.S.K.L.S. 1996. HPERD Conference on Christianity, Sport, Leisure and Wellness. Official Program, Messiah College, Grantham, PA.
- Sheehy, G. 1995. *New Passages: Mapping your life across time*. Ballantine Books, NY, NY.
- Van Andel, G. 2010, June. Personal communication.
- Visker, T. 2010, June. Personal communication.

ADDENDUM

Testimonies of Long-time CSKLS Members

Dickie Hill (Abilene University): Past President of CSKLS

CSKLS has given me several opportunities that other professional organizations have not. While attending my first conference it was clear to me that here was a group of people who loved sharing, professionally and spiritually. I immediately felt comfortable to become a part of the group. It has been enjoyable over the years to be able to pray at some point during my own presentations and to have prayer partners for the upcoming year. Throughout the years conferences for CSKLS have had high quality presenters. I have been afforded the opportunities to make presentations relating to spirituality that have not been allowed at secular conferences. There has been ample opportunity to serve in the Society's leadership, and the members are always encouraging to those who lead. The friendships I have established have meant the most to me. What a great place to spend time with Christian brothers and sisters! This has helped to strengthen me in my own teaching and spiritual growth. CSKLS has aided me in knowing and accepting those who have a little different slant on Christianity than what I am accustomed. I think God wanted me to be associated with this group of professional Christians.

Tim Voss (Timothy Christian College): Past President, CSKLS

Wow, how do you put into words the influence CSKLS has had in my life? It has been a lifeline personally as I have had to navigate through difficult losses. It has been and a rich seeding in my life professional by a most dedicated and committed group of colleagues one could hope to find. CSKLS has provided the means for advancing my own professional development and forming a thoughtful integration in my teaching. It has provided a means to publish. I believe CSKLS provided the tipping point for me receiving the coveted Regents Prize for Teaching at Trinity.

Another unique blessing I have found invaluable over the years is how CSKLS has broadened my perspectives and interests, especially in leisure studies. There is a group of dedicated leisure specialists who have helped me to cultivate the "deep life" neutering my theology of play and earth keeping and living distinctively human. My appreciation and love of life and the giver of life has certainly been enriched.

I have been active in CSKLS long enough to see a legacy earned by faculty, some who have retired; gratefully, some remaining active in our society. I too am beginning to entertain the thoughts of retirement. It is good to reflect back on my CSKLS involvement and the investment it has had in my life over the years and be able to look forward to the years remaining. The Lord is good.

Bud Williams (Wheaton College): Former Board Member, CSKLS

As a faculty member in a Christian college, I continually strive to strengthen my understanding of my discipline (applied health science) from a biblical/theological perspective and help my students and colleagues in doing likewise. As often stated, "the stronger the why, the greater

the incentive to do the what." I have been blessed by CSKLS in both areas, not only interacting in a scholarly and informal manner on how we integrate our faith with our disciplines but also gaining a greater desire and understanding how we can put into practice healthy living and share that with our students and colleagues. CSKLS has helped this ongoing dialogue with colleagues from a variety of academic institutions even beyond my country. Insights gained from these meetings and CSKLS publications have blessed me as a teacher and scholar. Integrating faith with leisure and play has also been a concern for Christians. CSKLS has blessed me in that area also. Furthermore, being together, praying together, organizing prayer partners, and continuing to share our prayer needs and blessings beyond our yearly conferences has further blessed me and given me support when I needed it. Thanks be to the founders of CSKLS and all those who, over the years, carefully planned and executed the many conferences, the publications, list serve, etc. and blessed us greatly. God has been good in providing the skill sets, motivation, and wisdom that has blessed those of us who have been touched by CSKLS.

Peter Walters (Wheaton College): Former President CSKLS

CSKLS is a unique opportunity to band together with other believers in a Christ centered oneness of faith AND vocation. Jesus concluded what is often referred to as his high priestly prayer shortly before being crucified with these words, "The goal is for all of them (his children) is to become one heart and mind—Just as you, Father, are in me and I in you, So they might be one heart and mind with us." (Message John 17:21). In a world which exalts differences and diversity, Jesus calls his followers to a unity of heart and hand. For sure, we are all created differently and have different abilities and skills however coming together as a professional organization under the Lordship of Jesus Christ, there is a oneness of vocational calling and purpose that is so unique and wonderful.

John Byl Redeemer University College): CSKLS Conference host and frequent presenter

It is an organization that seeks to encourage a very disparate group of academics who serve God through their research and teaching of Kinesiology and Leisure. For me it is a group that is first marked by a prayerful walk with God, and we help each other with our daily and personal walk with God. It is also a group that is remarkably open with each other as we celebrate achievements, laugh over fun and crazy things that life sometimes offers us, and weep as we share each other's sadness. It is a place that has encouraged scholarship through presentations at conferences, through the publication of various books, and more recently the online journal. I find it a place that finds us working through the mud that life is often about, but, we pull out diamonds and celebrate together the finding of those treasures. It is a place of remarkable openness, a place where iron sharpens iron, but never attempts to break it. It is an organization where hearts and doors are opened. CSKLS is a taste of our new earth home.

Tom Visker (Bethel College): Past President and Secretary/Treasurer, CSKLS

The Christian Society for Kinesiology, Leisure & Sport Studies (CSKLS) has been a tremendous blessing in my professional and personal life. There is not another professional organization that I've been a member of that has contributed to my professional and personal growth like CSKLS. As one of the presenters at the first conference in 1989, I experienced first-hand the potential for what this organization could be. I enthusiastically endorsed the vision that Glen Van Andel

had for a community of Christian scholars in Kinesiology and Leisure Studies to meet regularly to wrestle with the issues related to being Christian scholars in our disciplines. CSKLS became a sounding board for how our Christian faith gives direction to our professional life. For me, CSKLS was a place where I could share my thoughts on Christian sport participation. The feedback I received at these conferences was invaluable in revising and refining what it means for me to be a Christian who was called to a career in sport and physical education. I benefitted greatly from hearing my colleagues at similar Christian colleges share their thoughts on this topic and some of the issues they struggled with. Through this interaction, I no longer felt isolated in my pursuit of understanding how Christians can faithfully participate in sport. On a personal level, the people of CSKLS have become cherished brothers and sisters in Christ. For many of us, colleagues became valued and trusted friends. We not only shared professionally, but also personally. CSKLS was a place where I could safely share my joys and concerns and know that my friends would celebrate the joys with me and faithfully pray for and encourage me in the difficult times. Having prayer partners from CSKLS who would commit to praying for each other regularly throughout the year has been awesome. This is what makes CSKLS so unique from any other professional organization. This is what makes me look forward to our conference each year.

Glen Van Andel (Calvin College): Co-Founder of CSKLS

As I reflect on this question, I'm flooded with 20+ years of memories and feelings. To begin, this organization is the culmination of God's guidance and grace. Very early in my career, I had this strong desire to connect with other Christians who had a similar interest in exploring the relationship between faith and the field of leisure studies. God provided several professional Christian friends beginning with a fellow graduate student at the University of North Carolina, Joe Teaff. Our theological and philosophical discussions encouraged both of us to continue to search for others who shared this common passion, to discover and understand the interrelationship of work, play and worship in our lives.

As time went on, God placed others in our lives such as Paul Heintzman (Univ. of Ottawa), Tom Visker (Bethel College), David Ng (Brock University) and Dale Adkins (Western Illinois). Each of these folks is a story in itself but that is really His story. At any rate, in 1989 we decided we would meet to share some of our scholarly work and we have been meeting ever since.

Although scholarship has always been the primary focus our annual conferences, we all quickly realized a significant by-product of these events was the emergence of a Christian community. This became a place where we felt accepted and loved by one another, supported and prayed for, and where we worked and played together. It became a safe place to share ideas about our respective fields and our own deep personal and professional disappointments and frustrations. So, CSKLS represents a caring community of fellow Spirit-filled travelers who continually encourage me and fill me with the joy, peace, love and hope that helps me carry on the difficult task of cultural transformation.

CSKLS is also a light in a dark world, a world filled with distorted truth. And, it is a place for young Christian scholars to be mentored and guided by more seasoned truth-seekers. It is difficult to find "free space" to explore Christian perspectives in our disciplines while at the same time developing quality scholarship that will face the rigorous scrutiny of secular society. CSKLS

provides an opportunity to develop Christian scholarship that may contribute to the body of knowledge in our respective professions.

Conference Sites and Themes

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1989 - Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI | Integrating our faith with our disciplines |
| 1990 - Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI | Integrating our faith with our disciplines |
| 1991 - Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI | Integrating our faith with our disciplines |
| 1992 - Northwest Nazarene College, Nampa, ID * | |
| 1993 - Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI | Leisure, Sport and Popular Culture |
| 1994 - Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI | Integrating our Faith with our Discipline |
| 1995 - Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI | Integrating our Faith and Learning into HPERD |
| 1996 - Messiah College, Mechanicsburg, PA | Integrating our Faith with our Disciplines |
| 1997 - Messiah College, Mechanicsburg, PA | Integrating our Faith with our Disciplines |
| 1998 - Dordt College, Sioux Center, IA | Faith Directed Learning in HPERD |
| 1999 - Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI | Integrating our Faith and Learning |
| 2000 - Westmont College, Santa Barbara, CA | Collaboration in the New Millenium |
| 2001 - Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI | Celebrate Life: Mind, Body and Spirit |
| 2002 - Wheaton College, Wheaton, IL | Integrating our Faith with our Disciplines |
| 2003 - Redeemer College, Ontario, Canada | Integrating our Faith with our Disciplines |
| 2004 - Baylor University, Waco, TX (Combined conference with other CCCU Societies) ** | |
| 2005 - Azusa Pacific University, Azusa, CA | Grow in your Chosen Profession |
| 2006 - Gordon College, Wenham, MA | Integrating our Faith with our Disciplines |
| 2007 - Trinity College, Chicago, IL | Integrating our Faith with our Disciplines |
| 2008 - Seattle Pacific University, Seattle, WA | Integrating our Faith with our Disciplines |
| 2009- University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Ontario, CA | Integrating our Faith with our Disciplines |
| 2010- Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI | Integrating our Faith with our Disciplines |
| 2011 – College of the Ozarks, Branson, MO | Integrating our Faith with our Disciplines |
| 2012 – Indiana Wesleyan College, Marion, IN | Integrating our Faith with our Disciplines |
| 2013 – Baylor University, Waco, TX | Integrating our Faith with our Disciplines |
| 2014 – Messiah College, Mechanicsburg, PA | Integrating our Faith with our Disciplines |
| 2015 – Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI | Integrating our Faith with our Disciplines |
| 2016 – Westmont College, Santa Barbara, CA | Integrating our Faith with our Disciplines |
| 2017 – Lipscomb University, Nashville, TN | Integrating our Faith with our Disciplines |

2018 – Judson University, Chicago, IL Integrating our Faith with our Disciplines
2019 – Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI*** Global Conference on Christianity and Sport
*(Coalition for Christian Colleges and Universities (CCCU) sponsored conference expanded
conference from just leisure studies to all HPERDS disciplines)
** CSKLS organizes into formal professional society
***Combined Conference with the Global Conference on Christianity and Sport

Significant Publications by Members:

- Dahl, G. 1972. *Work, Play and Worship in a Leisure –oriented Society.* Augsburg Publishing House.
- Byl, J. 1986. *Organizing Successful YMCA Tournaments.* Human Kinetics; Champaign, IL
- Ryan, T. 1986. *Wellness, Spirituality and Sports.* Paulist Press; New York, NY.
- Ryken, L. 1987. *Work and Leisure in Christian Perspective.* Multnomah Press; Portland, OR.
- Oswalt, J. 1987. *The Leisure Crisis: A Biblical Perspective on Guilt-Free Leisure.* Victor Books.
- Heintzman, P., Van Andel, G., Visker, T. 1994. *Christianity and Leisure: Issues in a Pluralistic Society.* Dordt Press, Sioux City, IA.
- Heintzman, P., Van Andel, G., 2017. *Christianity and Leisure: Issues for the Twenty-First Century, Vol. II.* Dordt Press, Sioux City, IA.
- Byl, J., Visker, T. 1999. *Physical Education, Sports and Wellness: Looking to God as we look at ourselves.* Dordt Press, Sioux City, IA.
- Ladd, T., Mathisen, J. 1999. *Muscular Christianity: Religion, Sport and Culture in the Modern World.* Baker Book House.
- Byl, J. 2002. *Co-ed Recreational Games.* Human Kinetics; Champaign, IL.
- Byl, J. 2002. *Intramural Recreation: Step by Step Guide to Creating Effective Programs.* Human Kinetics; Champaign, IL.
- Byl, J. 2004. *101 Fun Warm-up and Cool-down Games.* Human Kinetics; Champaign, IL.

- Byl, J. 2006. *Organizing Successful Tournaments-3^d edition*. Human Kinetics; Champaign, IL.
- Byl, J. 2008. *Having a Ball: Stability Ball Games*. Human Kinetics; Champaign, IL.
- Byl, J., Walters, P. 2008. *Christian Paths to Health and Wellness*. Human Kinetics, Champaign, IL.

The Establishment of CSKLS Awards

Beginning in 2006, the Board agreed upon establishing the following awards.

The Distinguished Service Award

The *Distinguished Service Award* honors a current professional member of the Christian Society for Kinesiology, Leisure, and Sport Studies (CSKLS) who has provided extensive meritorious service to the profession within or outside of the society. The honoree is a member who is recognized as a leader in the Society, who has worked to enhance and advance CSKLS goals, and has earned the respect of fellow-members through extended dedication to the Society. Significant contributions to the growth and support of CSKLS are characteristics identified with this recipient. As a spiritual leader, the honoree has consistently demonstrated a Christ-like heart in both personal and professional actions.

Literary Award

The *Literary Award* honors current members of the Christian Society for Kinesiology, Leisure, and Sport Studies (CSKLS) who have demonstrated the integration of faith writing into one of the disciplines represented in the Society. Incorporating Christian faith into a profession is recognized as a service to God and a blessing to the Society. The honoree has produced writings that contribute to the advancement of kinesiology, leisure, sport, and/or wellness and also has met high professional standards. Christian beliefs and principles held by CSKLS have been confirmed through the author's work.

The Presidential Award

The *Presidential Award* recognizes those who have displayed actions compatible with the mission of the Christian Society for Kinesiology, Leisure, and Sports Studies (CSKLS). Honorees have made specific contributions that provide valuable support toward the goals of CSKLS within the past year. Either through long-term participation or as a first time contributor, recipients have provided outstanding assistance that aids CSKLS in meeting its objectives. The current president of CSKLS awards this honor and it is open to CSKLS members, non-members, groups, and organizations.

Award Recipients

2006

The Distinguished Service Award- Glen Van Andel- Calvin College

The Literary Award- John Byl- Redeemer College

The President's Award- John Byl- Redeemer College

2007

The Distinguished Service Award- Tom Visker-Bethel College
The Literary Award- Paul Heintzman- University of Ottawa
The President's Award- Julie Walton- Calvin College

2008

The Distinguished Service Award- Bud Williams- Wheaton College
The Literary Award- Don De Graaf- Calvin College
The President's Award- Dale Connally- Baylor University

2009

The Distinguished Service Award- Paul Heintzman - University of Ottawa
The Literary Award- Peter Walters- Wheaton College
The President's Award- Dickie Hill- Abilene Christian University

2010

The Distinguished Service Award: Dale Connally - Baylor University
Literary Award: Glen Van Andel - Calvin College
Presidential Award: Tom Visker- Bethel College and Lorraine Wilson- Abilene Christian University

2010

The first CSKLS online journal was published on the website.

Participants of the first conference in 1989

Tom Visker, Dordt College
Paul Heintzman- The Salvation Army
Joe Teaff- Southern Illinois University
David Ng- Brock University
Dale Adkins- Western Kentucky University
Rick Webster- Grand Valley State University
Agie Rainwater- Central Michigan University
Bob McCullum- Slippery Rock State College
Marv Zuidema- Calvin College
Gordon Spykman- Calvin College
Gordon Dahl- Special Leisure Consultant

Glen Van Andel- Calvin College