

IN MEMORY OF PALAESTRA FOUNDER

Dr. David P. Beaver 1935 – 2014

It is with great sadness that we report that David P. Beaver, founding editor and publisher of *PALAESTRA*, passed away suddenly on July 21, 2014. David's greatest professional legacy is *PALAESTRA*, which he founded in 1984. For more than 25 years, David served not only as editor-in-chief of *PALAESTRA* but also publisher of the journal through his corporation, Challenge Publications. David recently received the Julian Stein Lifetime Achievement Award through the Adapted Physical Activity Council of the American Alliance of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (AAHPERD). His longtime friend Julian Stein wrote the following nomination letter to the awards committee, which captures David's many professional accomplishments through the years.

"Although Dr. Beaver has taught and coached at both secondary and collegiate levels, his greatest and most significant contributions have been in the areas of adapted physical education, recreation, and sport for individuals with disabilities, and blind/visually impaired in particular. Jim Nepl, vice president of USABA, and many times an international competitor in goal ball, and several field events, stated, 'Dr. Beaver is by far the best goal ball coach for whom I have ever played.'

"Indicative of his foresight and leadership was in establishing *PALAESTRA: Forum of Sport, Physical Education, and Recreation for Individuals with Disabilities*. This professional periodical was developed to meet the void of available professional materials, especially for practitioners dealing with these areas. *PALAESTRA* continues to grow both nationally and internationally after more than a quarter century, and is recognized as a leading professional periodical in adapted physical education/activity, special sport programs, therapeutic recreation/recreation for special populations, and related areas involving individuals with disabilities. This growth and these contributions are because of the vision and efforts of David Beaver. As editor-in-chief, he established both professional and business relationships with groups such as the United States Olympic Committee on Sports for the Disabled (Paralympics), American Amputee Foundation, Adapted Physical Activity Council of AAHPERD, National Consortium for Physical Education for Individuals with Disabilities (NCPEID), and the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH).

"Dr. Beaver saw the need in the Midwest for a workshop/in-service program focusing on adapted physical education, sports involving athletes with disabilities, and recreation for special populations. To fill this void, he planned, organized, and administered Achieving A Balance in Adapted Physical Education Conference. Positive responses and exhaustive feedback about this one-day workshop resulted in subsequent programs expanded into a two-day conference.



"Another Illinois need noted by David Beaver was in-service training in adapted physical education for general physical education teachers throughout various special education cooperatives. This need was documented through a statewide survey, and results submitted to the State Department of Education as part of a grant proposal. A three-year grant (Rural Adapted Physical Education Training Program) was awarded, resulting in development of an important cadre of adapted physical education resource teachers to assist general physical education, special education, and elementary school classroom teachers through workshops and ongoing consultation throughout Illinois. David also was instrumental in formation of the United States Association for Blind Athletes (USABA), and responsible for much of its early growth and development. He served as vice president, and chair of the Sport Development Committee, which under his guidance and leadership established sound foundations for both sport development and competition. He was responsible for three USABA National Games being held at his own Western Illinois University. These games were the epitome of organization and efficiency, establishing standards of excellence for those responsible for future games to attempt to emulate.

"Because of his outstanding record, and accomplishments, in a relatively short time with USABA, Dr. Beaver was elected to key positions in the International Blind Sport Association (IBSA), including co-chair of the Sports Technical Committee, during its formative years, and was important and responsible for its early growth and development. In addition, he served as sport technician, representing the

U.S., at the IBSA Ratifying Congress. These contributions at national and international levels were important and instrumental in insuring developmental and competitive opportunities in sport for blind and visually impaired persons around the world. Dr. Beaver was elected as one of two delegates to the Organizing Congress that formed IBSA. He was also elected to a four-year term on the Sports Technical Committee for the Disabled, serving as sport technician, representing the U.S. and North America.

“David has and continues to contribute in many different ways to organizations/associations, including the following:

- American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance—Consultant to Physical Education and Recreation for those with Disabilities; Information and Research Utilization Center, and to the Unit on Programs for the Handicapped; organized USABA display, and dissemination center, within IRUC’s Drop-in-Center for the Handicapped during several AAHPERD National Conventions. At many conventions he made outstanding and well received presentations.
- Illinois Coalition of School Professionals and University Programs in Adapted Physical Education—Treasurer, President, legislative liaison, consultant to Illinois Office of Education for adapted physical education; consultant in adapted physical education for the West Central Illinois Special Education Cooperative; presenter at numerous Illinois AHPERD state conventions and workshops throughout the state.
- Adapted Physical Activity Council (AAHPERD)—Task force on Fitness testing for the Disabled; presenter at a number of programs at AAHPERD National Conventions; appointed to task force to study of inclusion of students with disabilities on Association and PCPFS tests.

“None stand taller than those who bend to help individuals less fortunate than themselves. None stand taller than Dr. David P. Beaver, whose entire professional career has exemplified leadership, professionalism, and altruism, and he has helped countless individuals with disabilities attain the ‘Life worth living,’ so eloquently expressed by Helen Keller.”

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Julian U. Stein

I had the pleasure of working closely with David Beaver for some 25 years as a member of the *PALAESTR*A editorial board serving both as assistant editor of physical education and department editor of issues.

Before joining the *PALAESTR*A staff, I knew of David’s work with individuals who are partially sighted and blind. Looking back over his career, his contributions to this population range from president of his local Lion’s Club in Macomb, Illinois, to serving as a U.S. Association of Blind Athletes representative to the World Council for the Welfare of the Blind.

Several years after joining the editorial board of *PALAESTR*A, David asked me to serve as a member of the journal’s advisory board. From this position, I grew to learn about the internal operations of the journal and all the detailed tasks David orchestrated to meet publication deadlines every three months. As editor-in-chief of the journal, David led his staff in a fashion that exemplified leadership. David’s high energy, commitment to excellence, and journalistic standards over the many years gave inspiration and support to the many of us who served as authors, editors, and members of the board.

Being editor-in-chief of a national journal is no easy task. I witnessed the endless hours David and his most loyal supporter and wife, Phyllis, gave to coordinating the content of each issue across feature articles, departments, and advertisement to appeal to the widest possible audience throughout the disability community.

David’s whole mission in life was to improve the content and quality of the journal. He constantly sought feedback and advice from contributors, subscribers, and advertisers. Meetings were conducted with an agenda and passion to produce the very best product that was humanly possible. His quest to pursue excellence in this endeavor was endless.

Seeking the latest information, trends, and research on topics from all corners of the disability community reflected David’s passion for wanting to present *PALAESTR*A to the professional community as a journal always perceived to be on the “cutting edge.” Often, *Palaestra* ushered in new trends, teaching strategies, and equipment that could enhance the recreation and play lives of individuals with disabilities.

Many of us who worked with David found him to be a bright, logical, and a systematic thinker with a splendid sense of humor. These grand traits were visible over the years during the many advisory board meetings and, especially, at the yearly editors meeting held during the AAHPERD convention.

Joseph H. Huber, PhD

Children’s Physical Developmental Clinic

Words cannot express the depth of my appreciation for Dr. David Beaver and all he accomplished for our profession. His impact was immense. Everyone he taught, served, and supervised, and everyone with whom he collaborated were directly and positively affected by his expertise and passion for the field. Countless others were impacted by his outstanding conferences (Achieving a Balance, and the Adapted Section of the World Congress on Disabilities). But his most magnanimous accomplishment was his ingenious founding and incredible editorship of *PALAESTR*A!

Dr. Beaver taught us all the Amazing Power of Applying Research to Practice, thus directly benefitting practitioners, and their students, but also directly benefitting researchers by helping them see the challenging needs of the real world, and the practitioners’ desire to implement their innovations

(and vice versa!), and thus for everyone to work together to achieve success for all.

So, *PALAESTRA* was a tremendous WIN-WIN-WIN for all practitioners, students, and researchers ... for sure: EVERYONE. Without a doubt, Dr. Beaver's message of teamwork and collaboration...combined with research and practice...and topped off with hope and optimism...has made our world a better place.

David: Your profound work will assist and inspire us forever.

God bless you, Dr. David Beaver. And above all....THANK YOU!

**Christine Stopka, PhD, ATC, LAT, CSCS, CAPE
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Passing of Beloved Pioneer, David Beaver: Man with Incredible Vision and Instrumental to USABA's Success

Colorado Springs, Colo. (July 28, 2014)—It is with a saddened heart that the United States Association of Blind Athletes (USABA) announces the passing of David Beaver, founding member of USABA, instrumental to its success and a pioneer in further developing organizations, associations

and educational programs for individuals with disabilities. He passed away peacefully on July 20, 2014, at 79 years of age.

Influential in the formation of USABA, Beaver was responsible for much of its early growth and development, giving of his time as volunteer director of the association's sports development during its beginning years of existence and offering expertise for more than 10 years as Chairperson of the Sports Development Committee, creating cooperative relationships between USABA's sports and their respective United States Olympic Committee National Governing Bodies. He served as coach in the 1976 Toronto Olympiad, leader for athletes with visual impairments at the 1980 Games and the U.S. Chef de Mission at the 1984 Games. In 2011, Beaver was inducted into USABA's Hall of Fame as a special contributor.

"It was my pleasure as a new member of the USABA Board of Directors in the early 1980s to work with Dr. David Beaver, whose memory is enhanced by recollection of his early involvement with the U.S. Association of Blind Athletes," said Oral Miller, current member on the USABA Board of Directors. "Although his direct involvement in the operations of USABA changed over the years, Dr. Beaver always thereafter supported and encouraged sports for the blind and visually impaired."

No amount of words can adequately honor such an incredible individual. To many, Beaver was an administrator, advisor, teacher, counselor, mentor, advocate, author, editor, and friend.

DAVID BEAVER OBITUARY

David Pierce Beaver, 79, of Macomb, IL, passed away at 8:58 PM Sunday, July 20, 2014, at OSF St. Francis Medical Center of Peoria, IL. He was born May 23, 1935, in Cincinnati, OH, to Dr. R. Pierce and M. Wilma (Manessier) Beaver. He married Phyllis L. Gould on August 2, 1969, in Wadsworth, OH. She survives. Also surviving are two daughters, Tracey E. (Darin J.) Ratermann of Columbia, MO, and Kristin E. Beaver of Detroit, MI; two grandsons, Connor and Aydan Ratermann. He was preceded in death by his parents and one brother, Stephen R. Beaver.

As the son of missionaries, David lived in China as a child, as well as in Ohio, New York City, Connecticut, and Vermont. He attended high school at Woodstock Country School, S. Woodstock, VT; he majored in physical education as an undergraduate at Springfield College in Springfield, MA, and continued there to earn his Master's of Education in Physical Education—Administration. His first teaching position was as a physical education instructor, coach of wrestling, and assistant coach of track at Columbia High School, South Orange-Maplewood, NJ. In 1960, he became director of athletics and physical education, as well as the coach of wrestling at Brooks School, North Andover, MA. From 1963–1967 he served as assistant professor of physical education, coach of track and cross-country, and assistant coach of wrestling at Lock Haven State College, Lock Haven, PA. He was assistant varsity coach of wrestling and track from 1968–1969, while doing predoctoral work again at Springfield College. He met his wife during this additional study in Springfield. They were married by their two fathers, both ordained ministers, in Wadsworth, OH, on August 2, 1969. In order to complete his terminal degree, in 1972 David attended the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley, graduating with an EdD in physical education—kinesiology and in special education—physically handicapped. In 1988, he did postdoctoral study at Oregon State University in Corvallis in physical education for individuals with severe and profound disabilities. David was an associate professor of health, physical education and recreation at Morehead State University, Morehead, KY, from 1969–1976; and from 1976 to December of the year 2000 (when he retired), he served as a professor of physical education at Western Illinois University (WIU), Macomb, IL, predominantly serving as the adapted physical education specialist.

The majority of David's professional life was spent teaching and coaching; however, he was dedicated to individuals with disabilities and adapted physical activity for this population. While serving in the U.S. Reserve Army Medical Corps, he became interested in soldiers who acquired disabilities. From this point in his life, he went on to prepare himself to teach educators how to teach and coach individuals with disabilities. He helped to found USABA—United States Association of Blind Athletes, sat on many national and international committees and boards serving individuals with disabilities, and accompanied many teams to national and international competitions. In 1984, he founded and published a professional journal called *PALAESTRA*—Forum of Sport, Physical Education and Recreation for Those with Disabilities. It became a full-time commitment after retiring from teaching at WIU in 2000. It continues to be published for both a national and international audience. He has received numerous awards over the years, including the Distinguished Alumnus Award both from Springfield College, and most recently, from the University of Northern Colorado.

David enjoyed cooking, especially Chinese recipes, along with reading, history, and classical music. He loved his family—his wife, two daughters, his son-in-law, and his two adorable grandsons. He often said,

"It is not where you are at the end of the journey... it is how you made the trip."