



Violence Prevention Think Tank Participant Biographies

Victoria Banyard

Dr. Victoria L. Banyard is a Professor in the Department of Psychology at the University of New Hampshire with affiliations in the Justice Studies Program. She is also a research and evaluation consultant at Prevention Innovations: Research and Practices to End Violence Against Women, a research and development unit in the College of Liberal Arts at the University of New Hampshire. She received her doctorate in clinical psychology with a certificate in Women's Studies from the University of Michigan. She completed a postdoctoral research fellowship in the Family Research Lab at UNH and postdoctoral clinical training at The Trauma Center in Boston. She conducts research on the long-term consequences of trauma and interpersonal violence including factors related to resilience and recovery. She also has a program of research with several colleagues on broader community approaches to sexual and intimate partner violence prevention. For example, she was the principal investigator on an experimental evaluation of the efficacy of college rape prevention program focused on empowering bystanders. She has also developed a number of new evaluation tools to be used in understanding the role of bystanders in violence prevention. Additionally, she is part of research teams conducting a series of studies of changing rates for unwanted sexual experiences on a college campus and the first comprehensive statewide survey of violence against women in New Hampshire.

Myrta Charles

Myrta Charles is a Senior Grant Program Specialist with the United States Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women (OVW). Since joining OVW in 1996, Ms. Charles managed over 12 different grant programs to address violence against women issues in rural, urban and Native American communities across the country. She serves as an authority in program development and implementation of the STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program, Grants to Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault State Coalitions Program, Grants to Reduce Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault and Stalking on Campus Program, The American Reinvestment and Recovery Act Grants and the Services, Training, Education and Policies to Reduce Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence and Stalking in Secondary Schools Grant Program (The STEP Program). Currently, Ms. Charles administers the Grants to Reduce Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking on Campus Program (The Campus Program). Since its inception in 1999, the Campus Program has awarded over 100 million dollars to more than 300 institutions of higher education to further their efforts to effectively address dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking on college campuses. Prior to joining OVW, Ms. Charles administered programs for the Corporation for National Service and launched AmeriCorps programs across the nation.

Janet Judge

Janet P. Judge is President of Sports Law Associates LLC, where she concentrates her practice on intercollegiate sports, employment and social media law counseling. She brings her legal and diverse collegiate athletic experiences to the table when advising and representing colleges and universities on a wide variety of general employment and sports specific issues, including Office for Civil Rights (OCR) investigations, Title IX compliance, harassment, hazing, academic fraud and athlete misconduct. She conducts internal investigations, drafts policy, conducts training and works with institutions to develop best practices around Title IX compliance issues, both school-wide (harassment, including sexual violence) and specific to athletics (programmatic). She is the author of the NCAA's recently released best practices for Title IX coordinators, co-author of the recently released *NCAA Manual on Title IX* and author of "Title IX and Athletics" for the *College and University Law Manual* (ed., R.W. Iuliano, 2011). She taught Sports Law at the University of Maine Law School and is an online instructor for the National Association of College and University Attorney's (NACUA) course on Title IX Coordinator Responsibilities and compliance with OCR's 2011 Dear Colleague Letter. She is a regular presenter at the events sponsored by NACUA. In addition to her law practice, Ms. Judge is an NCAA grant speaker and trainer at Division I, II and III institutions and athletic conferences. She has worked with student-athletes and staff at more than 300 colleges and universities. In 2011, the National Association of Collegiate Women Athletic Administrators (NACWAA) named her Administrator of the Year for Athletic Organizations. Ms. Judge is a graduate of Harvard/Radcliffe College where she served as Assistant Director of Athletics, Alumni Relations Office Liaison, Vice-Chair of its athletics oversight committee and a member of its NCAA Division I Athletics Certification Steering Committee. As an undergraduate, Janet was an NCAA Division I varsity letter winner in soccer (captain, three national tournament appearances), basketball and track and field. While attending law school, she coached basketball and soccer at Simmons College. Janet clerked for the Honorable Norman H. Stahl, United States Court of Appeals. She is included in the Best Lawyers in America in the areas of Sports and Employment Law and has been named a SuperLawyer for her intercollegiate Sports Law work.

Connie Kirkland

Connie J. Kirkland, MA, NCC, is currently the Director of Student Mental Health and Behavior at Northern Virginia Community College, where she chairs the Threat Assessment Team and coordinates behavioral intervention and support services. Previously, she was the Director of Sexual Assault Services at George Mason University, where she provided university-wide education and training, as well as crisis intervention for victims of campus sexual assault, stalking and dating/domestic violence. Kirkland has worked for over 35 years in crime victim advocacy, as a college instructor and as a criminal justice researcher and trainer. She is an ATSS Certified Trauma Specialist (CTS), a National Certified Counselor (NCC), and a Certified Law Enforcement Instructor. She has authored legislative bills, training manuals and materials related to crime victim issues, specializing in violence against women. She has recently been appointed to (the NCAA Think Tank on campus violence issues) as well as the 32 National Campus Safety Index Working Group of the Virginia Tech Victims Family Outreach Foundation. Kirkland is the author of “Violence Against Women,” a chapter in *Olds’ Maternal-Newborn Nursing and Women’s Health Across the Lifespan, 9th edition*, by M. Davidson, M. London, and P. Ladewig, Prentice Hall, Fall, 2010. She is the co-author of “Responding to Sexually Victimized College Students,” a chapter in *Understanding and Preventing Campus Violence*, the 2008 Praeger Press book edited by Michele A. Paludi. From 2005 to present, Kirkland has been a member of the curriculum committee as well as a faculty member for the Jeanne Clery Act Compliance Training, a project sponsored by Security on Campus, Inc. and the U.S. Department of Justice Office for Victims of Crime. In 2004, Kirkland authored a chapter titled “Program Case Study: Campus-Based Sexual Assault Services—On the Cutting Edge,” in *Restorative Justice on the College Campus* by David R. Karp and Thom Allena (Charles C. Thomas publisher). In 2003, Kirkland partnered with the U.S. Department of Justice National Drug Intelligence Center to co-author a manual designed for law enforcement and medical investigators, titled “Drug-Facilitated Sexual Assault Resource Guide.” She was appointed to the Virginia Attorney General’s Advisory Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault and the Virginia Sexual Violence Strategic Planning Team. In addition she authored “Campus Stalking,” a bulletin for the U.S. Department of Justice Violence Against Women Office. *Net Crimes and Misdemeanors* (2002 and 2006), a book on cyberstalking by J. A. Hitchcock featured the advocacy of Kirkland with victims of campus cyberstalking. She has served as the Consulting Editor of *Campus Safety & Security: Forms, Checklists & Guidelines* from 2001 to present.

Cari Klecka

Dr. Cari L. Klecka came to the NCAA as Director of Educational Programs in January 2011. In her role, she conducts program assessment and evaluation, oversees youth initiatives, leads the strategic planning process for the Department of Student-Athlete Affairs and directs the NCAA Outreach Program for First-Time Chancellors and Presidents. Cari also serves as the primary liaison to the Committee on Sportsmanship and Ethical Conduct. Prior to coming to the NCAA, Cari was a tenured, associate professor of curriculum and instruction at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. During her six and a half years at UNLV, Cari authored or co-authored numerous articles on contexts to support teacher learning and teacher education policy and practice. She also co-edited the *Journal of Teacher Education* and a book on standards for teacher educators. Early in her career, Cari was a high school Spanish teacher in Rantoul, Illinois. Cari earned her bachelor's degree in teaching, a master's degree in curriculum and instruction and a doctoral degree in education at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Brandi Hephner LaBanc

Dr. Hephner LaBanc received her Ed.D. from Northern Illinois State University (NIU). Before joining the University of Mississippi, she served as the Associate Vice President for Student Affairs as well as the Assistant Vice President for Planning and Operations at NIU. In addition to her time at NIU, Hephner LaBanc's background includes an accounting degree and work with Merrill Lynch prior to graduate study in Higher Education Administration at Kent State University. Since that time, she has served students in multiple administrative roles at Arizona State University, University of North Carolina at Wilmington, Baldwin-Wallace College and University of Akron. In addition to serving as Vice Chancellor at the University of Mississippi, Hephner LaBanc serves as a faculty member in the Higher Education program in the Department of Leadership and Counselor Education.

Linda Langford

Dr. Linda Langford, Sc.D. has been an Associate Center Director at the U.S. Department of Education's Higher Education Center for Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Violence Prevention since 1998. She manages the Center's evaluation projects for four years and since 2002 directing its violence prevention initiatives. She developed a framework for violence prevention in higher education using a public health approach that promotes campus and community collaboration and systematic data-driven planning based on the best available prevention science.

She also trains, speaks and consults widely on effective campus-based prevention related to hazing, sexual and relationship violence, celebratory riots, bystander intervention and other topics. Dr. Langford also currently serves as an evaluation scientist at the SAMHSA-funded Suicide Prevention Resource Center. She previously co-managed the Best Practices Registry for Suicide Prevention and more recently has worked on several efforts to promote safe and effective messaging in suicide prevention. She serves as a Subject Matter Expert on the Virginia funded Make the Connection anti-stigma campaign, led by Reingold, Inc. From 1998 to 2005, she was an Assistant Clinical Professor at Tufts University School of Medicine, teaching a core course in strategic planning for health behavior change in the master's degree program in health communications. Common themes across her work include effective prevention, strategic planning, health communications and program evaluation with special interests in environmental approaches to prevention, practitioner-researcher collaborations and the translation of research to practice. She holds a doctorate in Behavioral Sciences from the Harvard School of Public Health. Following the Department of Education's announcement that they will no longer be funding the Higher Education Center, Dr. Langford and the rest of the Center's leadership are working with their parent agency, Education Development Center, Inc., to explore ways to sustain the important work of the Center. They will be operating under the name "Center for Campus Health and Safety."

Donald McPherson

For more than 25 years, Don McPherson has used the power and appeal of sport to address complex social justice issues. He has created innovative programs, supported community service providers and provided educational seminars and lectures throughout North America. As an athlete, McPherson was a unanimous All-American quarterback at Syracuse University and is a veteran of the NFL and Canadian Football League. As captain of the undefeated 1987 Syracuse football team, McPherson set 22 school records, led the nation in passing and won more than 18 national "Player of the Year" awards, including the Maxwell Award as the nation's best player, the Davey O'Brien National Quarterback Award and the inaugural Johnny Uitas Golden Arm Award. He was second in the Heisman Trophy voting. In 2008, McPherson was elected to the College Football Hall of Fame. McPherson has delivered school and community based programs addressing issues such as drunk driving, alcohol and substance abuse, bullying, youth leadership and mentoring. Upon retiring from professional football in 1994, he joined Northeastern University's Center for the Study of Sport in Society as National Director of Athletes in Service to America.

In 2002, he founded the Sports Leadership Institute at Adelphi University, for which he served as Executive Director until 2007. In 1995, McPherson turned his focus to the issue of “men’s violence against women,” as Director of Sport in Society’s Mentors in Violence Prevention Program, taking over for the program’s founder, Jackson Katz. McPherson emerged as a national leader and advocate for the prevention of sexual and domestic violence. He has conducted workshops and lectures for more than 200 college campuses, community organizations and national sports and violence prevention organizations. His programs and lectures have reached more than 1 million people. Don has twice testified before the United States Congress and has worked closely with the U.S. Departments of Education and Defense on issues of sexual violence in education and the military, respectively. McPherson has received several honors in recognition of his service, including the Frederick Douglas Men of Strength Award, given by Men Can Stop Rape, Champions for Change, presented by Lifetime Television, The Creative Vision for Women’s Justice, presented by the Pace University Women’s Justice Center and a leadership award from the National Center for Victims of Crime. McPherson has served as a board member, consultant and advisor for several national organizations including the Ms. Foundation for Women and the National Football Foundation. Recently, McPherson joined the Board of Directors of the U.S. National Committee for UN Women.

Ada Meloy

Ada Meloy serves as the General Counsel of the American Council on Education. Since her arrival at ACE in 2007, Ada Meloy has focused on a wide range of legal issues in higher education including ethical and conflict issues faced by institutions and their faculty, staff and administrators. She has been featured as an expert on issues related to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and other concerns arising from campus violence. Meloy has led numerous amicus briefs in the appellate courts on issues of importance to higher education and served as ACE's representative on the Higher Education Coalition for Patent Reform that resulted in the passage of the America Invents Act. Meloy joined ACE after a distinguished 28-year career at New York University’s Office of Legal Counsel. She served as Deputy General Counsel for over 10 years and as Acting General Counsel for NYU in 2005-06, handling a wide range of legal matters including academic disputes, discrimination issues, tenure, grievance and discipline matters and intellectual property litigations. Prior to joining NYU, she was an associate at the New York law firm of Cahill Gordon & Reindel. Meloy has served extensively on committees for the National Association of College and University Attorneys (NACUA).

She also has spoken at NACUA conferences, as well as conferences for the Council of Graduate Schools, the National Collegiate Athletic Association and the Community College Conference on Legal Issues. In 2010, Meloy was appointed to the American Bar Association section of Legal Education Accreditation Committee, which reviews accreditation of law schools. She is a member of both the New York and District of Columbia bars as well as the bars of various federal courts, and has been a member of the bar Committee on Professional Ethics and the Disciplinary Committee for New York attorneys. Meloy is a graduate of Wellesley College (MA). She earned her J.D. from the NYU School of Law in 1973.

Chuck Mitrano

Empire 8 Commissioner, Chuck Mitrano, has established himself as the leading mind on sportsmanship in intercollegiate athletics. His progressive initiatives and policies have served as the model in sports for many years, and he has received numerous national, regional and local accolades for his leadership. Mitrano was named one of the “Top 20 Americans Who Have Made Significant Contributions to the Practice of Fair Play” along with fellow honorees Billie Jean King, Tony Dungy, Jack Nicklaus and Cal Ripken Jr. He was also tabbed as one of the “100 Most Influential Sports Educators in America” along with Pat Summit, Dr. Richard Lapchick, the late Dr. Myles Brand, Donna Lopiano and the late John Wooden. Most recently, Mitrano was named the NCAA 2011 Bob Fredrick Award winner, given annually to an NCAA administrator or coach who has made significant contribution to sportsmanship and ethical conduct. Nine years ago he created the “Conduct Foul Program” which is the only known method to track tangible incidences of unsportsmanlike behavior in athletic competition. The program has been nationally renowned and used at all levels of high school and collegiate athletics. NCAA Division III adopted the program as part of its Strategic Plan and more than 2,500 institution athletic teams have participated in the program, impacting thousands of student-athletes across the country. Mitrano, who also serves as President of the NCAA Division III Commissioners Association, who spearheaded efforts that later became the NCAA Hazing Prevention Summit held in conjunction with the 2008 NCAA National Convention. Mitrano Co-Chaired the Planning Committee and emceed the event, which was highly attended by leaders in all divisions. He is also a highly renowned speaker having completed 13 speaking engagements covering four collegiate athletic conferences, 43 institutions and a group of high school Directors of Athletics in the past 18 months.

Keri Potts

Keri Potts is the creator of the blog Afightbackwoman.com, detailing the various legal, emotional and physical aspects of the sexual assault and attempted rape she survived at the hands of an Italian citizen in 2008, while vacationing in Rome. Keri reported the crime to the U.S. Embassy, the Italian Police and hired an Italian legal team. In April 2010, her assailant pled guilty to sexual assault and simple assault. She published details of her ordeal in a personal essay for *Marie Claire* and has also appeared on *USA Today*, *Travel Channel* and other outlets to shed light on prosecuting sexual assault in a foreign country. In November 2010, Keri was named ESPN's first female Communications Director for ESPN's college sports properties, including college football, basketball and NCAA relations. In addition, she served on the concept and launch teams for *espnW*, ESPN's first business targeted to women. From 2003 to 2010, she oversaw all entertainment and films publicity for the Network. Prior to ESPN, she worked at the NCAA as a Staff Writer and Assistant Communications Director. Keri graduated magna cum laude from Syracuse University with a B.S. in magazine journalism (1998) and M.S. in public relations (1999). She attended Syracuse on a full scholarship for women's volleyball and was named a first-team Academic All-American and Syracuse's Top Female Athlete. Currently, she is training to become certified as a rape crisis counselor and victims advocate.

Diane Rosenfeld

Diane L. Rosenfeld is a Lecturer on Law and Director of the Gender Violence Clinic at Harvard Law School. She teaches courses on Title IX, Gender Violence, Law and Social Justice and Theories of Sexual Coercion. A leading national expert on Title IX, she has advised the Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights and the Department of Justice on legal policy regarding the obligations of schools to prevent and address sexual violence on campus. In addition to teaching, she directs the Gender Violence Clinic and supervises students on legal policy analysis, casework and the development of educational and legal programs for Title IX compliance. Ms. Rosenfeld received her LL.M. from Harvard Law School in 1996. Prior to teaching at Harvard, Ms. Rosenfeld served as the Senior Counsel to the Office on Violence Against Women of the U.S. Department of Justice. She also served as an Executive Assistant Attorney General in Illinois where she provided legal policy advising on women's rights, environmental enforcement and the ethics of governmental attorneys.

Ms. Rosenfeld co-produced with Cambridge Documentary Films “Rape Is...” which has received several film awards (www.rapeis.org). She lectures extensively with the film, speaking to colleges across the country and educating students, administrators and faculty about the prevalence and reality of rape on campus. A frequent public speaker, Ms. Rosenfeld has appeared in national and local media, including ABC’s “Nightline,” NPR’s “All Things Considered,” and featured in the New York Times.

Celia Slater

Celia Slater is the Executive Director of The NCAA Women Coaches Academy (WCA), Play with Purpose and Winning Careers in Athletics programs. The WCA provides skills training for coaches at all levels to assist them in being more efficient, productive, resourceful and successful. The NCAA has sponsored the Women Coaches Academies since 2003. Slater recently became the Co-Director of the Alliance for Women Coaches, a non-profit educational organization established to create and provide leadership and career skills training and support for women coaches. Previously, Slater served at Lynn University (Boca Raton, Florida) as head Women's Basketball Coach, SWA, Co-Director of the Honors Program and on the First Year Experience Task Force. Celia was a four-year scholarship athlete and named Most Valuable Player of the women's basketball team during her senior year at Florida State University. Celia earned her master's degree in Sports Administration from the University of Northern Colorado. Celia is dedicated to her personal and professional development. She is a graduate of the NACWAA Institute for Administrative Advancement, a certified Change Cycle Trainer and she is also certified as a facilitator for the Pursuing Victory with Honor Sports Ethics Program. In September of 2011, she received a scholarship to attend the Center for Creative Leadership’s Leadership Development Program. Celia has also been very involved in Toastmasters International and has earned her Competent Toastmaster Credential (CTM). Celia is a gifted trainer, speaker and motivator and enjoys traveling to campuses to speak with students, coaches and administrators.

Richard Southall

Dr. Richard M. Southall is an Associate Professor of Sport Administration and Coordinator of the Graduate Sport Administration Program at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He is also Director of The College Sport Research Institute (CSRI) and co-author of the annual CSRI Adjusted Graduation Gap (AGG) Report. He received his doctorate in Sport Administration from The University of Northern Colorado in 2001. His undergraduate degree (B.A.) from Western State College of Colorado included a triple-major in English, history and philosophy. Dr. Southall's areas of professional expertise and teaching experience include: legal and ethical issues in college sport, sport marketing, sales and revenue production, sociology of college sport, and sport facility and event management. He is a former President of the Sport and Recreation Law Association (2004-2005). Over the past 13 years Dr. Southall's research focus has been big-time collegiate sports, including examining institutional logics, university policy responses to various issues (e.g. criminal behavior by college athlete, academic fraud, anti-trust), organizational culture dynamics in college athletic departments, re-presentation of college sport events via television broadcasts and former college athletes' image and likeness rights.

Robert Vowels

Robert Vowels is the Vice President of Student-Athlete Affairs at the NCAA. He oversees the Health and Safety, Educational Programs, Leadership Development and Grants and Scholarships units. Vowels has worked in intercollegiate athletics for over 23 years, working in the athletics department of Vanderbilt University as well as conference offices such as the Big Ten Conference, Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SIAC) and former Commissioner of the Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC). While at the SIAC, Vowels was instrumental in expanding the conference to eleven institutions. He negotiated the first multi-year media agreement between SIAC and Urban Sports and Entertainment. In 2004, while at the SWAC, Vowels revised the conference's strategic plan, compliance programs, championships and corporate alliance programs and negotiated a multi-year media agreement with ESPN/ESPNU. He also worked with ESPN and the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) to develop the initial MEAC-SWAC Challenge. At the SWAC, Vowels has served on numerous NCAA committees such as the Division I Management Council, Division I Men's Basketball Committee, Division I Football Board of Directors and the Collegiate Commissioner's Association (CCA) and as Chair of the Minorities Opportunities and Interest Committee (MOIC). Vowels received his Bachelor of Arts from Duke University and a Juris Doctor from the North Carolina Central University, School of Law.

Deborah Wilson

Dr. Debbie Wilson, an Associate Athletic Director at George Mason University, has a private Psychotherapy and Sport Psychology practice in Washington, D.C. She currently chairs the NCAA's Committee on Sportsmanship and Ethical Conduct. Dr. Wilson earned her Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology from the University of Maryland and is a licensed Psychologist. Prior to coming to George Mason, Wilson worked as a Psychologist serving general students and student-athletes at the University of Maryland and George Washington University. For eight seasons she was the Women's Basketball Coach at the Ohio State University. She has served on the faculties of the University of Dayton and Christopher Newport University. As a Sport Psychologist, Dr. Wilson has over 30 years of professional experience in working with athletes, coaches and sport administrators at the high school, collegiate, Olympic and professional levels of competition. She has worked with male and female athletes in more than two dozen sports representing many countries. She has worked with NCAA champions, Olympic medalists and world record holders. Dr. Wilson is published in the areas of leadership development on sport teams, ethics in coaching, children in sports, parenting athletic children, gender issues in sport and performance enhancement.

Andrea Zevenbergen

Dr. Andrea Zevenbergen is Professor of Psychology at SUNY Fredonia. She serves as a Division III Representative on the Faculty Athletics Representatives Association (FARA) Executive Committee. She has been the FAR and Chair of the Intercollegiate Athletic Board at SUNY Fredonia since 2003 and served as the Chair of the FARs in the State University of New York Athletic Conference in 2007-2008 and 2010-2011. Her doctorate, from SUNY Stony Brook, is in clinical psychology, and she has conducted research related to family contributions to youth disordered behavior, including aggressive behavior. As an undergraduate student at Northwestern University, she was a Division I student-athlete in cross-country and track and field.