



Andrew Zimbalist, President

WELCOMING OUR NEW SISTER ORGANIZATION...



**Generating fact-based research
and sponsoring educational programs
on critical issues**

WESTPORT, CT -- The Drake Group has established a new non-profit organization under the fiscal 501(c)(3) sponsorship of the Players Philanthropy Fund – **THE DRAKE GROUP EDUCATION FUND**. Andrew Zimbalist, Drake President explained, "Doing so will enable two important things to happen. First, The Drake Group will be better positioned to focus on its priority mission of influencing Congress and other policymakers, encouraging them to address the serious academic, health, and economic crises in intercollegiate athletics – our primary function as a 501(c)(4) advocacy non-profit organization. Second, given the 2022 success of The Allen Sack National Symposium and our webinar series on critical issues in college athletics, we are moving all of our educational and research assets to the The Drake Group Education Fund (TDGEF) so it becomes our "public education arm" working to influence the public discourse on the need for reform.

We are grateful to the Players Philanthropy Fund (PPF), our 501(c)(3) fiscal sponsor, which will host our new organization until the IRS acts on TDGEF's application for 501(c)(3) status. This PPF fiscal sponsorship immediately allows all donations and gifts to the TDGEF to be tax deductible and makes the organization eligible for grants from private and corporate foundations."

MEET MICHAEL DRISCOLL, Chair, The Drake Group Education Fund

"I'm honored to serve as the first Chairman of the Board of Directors of The Drake Group Education Fund (TDGEF). I've been a long-time admirer of the work of The Drake Group's co-

founder Allen Sack and the meticulous work of the organization in assembling fact-based research to support its positions. The Education Fund will work to amplify a public voice that insists on realizing the promise of intercollegiate athletics -- the excitement sport brings to the campus and alumni community and the value of a college education. We know we can achieve this end without subjecting athletes to exploitation, discrimination and physical or mental abuse." [Learn more about Mike here.](#)



MEET THE OTHER MEMBERS OF TDGEF'S FIRST BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Four members of the current Board of The Drake Group will also be serving on the TDGEF Board. [Dr. Zimbalist](#) (pictured at the top), the Robert A. Woods Professor Emeritus of Economics at Smith College, will serve as Vice Chair in addition to serving as TDG President. Zimbalist is a nationally recognized sports economist who has published several dozen articles and twenty-seven books, including *Unpaid Professionals: Commercialism and Conflict in Big-time College Sports*, *Unwinding Madness: What Went Wrong with College Sports and How to Fix It* with Gerald Gurney and Donna Lopiano, and *Whither College Sports: Amateurism, Athlete Safety and Academic Integrity*.

[Wendy Pierpont](#) will serve as Secretary for both organizations. Dr. Pierpont is a Learning Specialist in the Services for Student Athletes program at University of Oregon and is an expert on



Wendy Pierpont



John Rosen



Donna Lopiano

serving academically under prepared students across all sports focusing on the development of study skills and academic engagement. [John Rosen](#) will do the same double duty as Treasurer of both organizations, while a TDGEF treasurer is being recruited. John has over twenty-five years of sales and marketing management and strategic consulting experience. He is a member of the University of New Haven New Haven Economic Performance Laboratory Advisory Board and a co-founder of MCAworks, LLC and NewTechHaven, LLC. [Donna Lopiano](#) is the immediate TDG Past President and the President and founder of Sports Management Resources (SMR), a consulting firm. She is also an adjunct professor of sports management at Southern Connecticut State University and former CEO of the Women's Sports Foundation.

[Maurice Clarett](#) is a former Ohio State Buckeyes running back and pro football player well known for unsuccessfully



challenging the NFL's draft eligibility rules requiring a player to be three years removed from high school. Mr. Clarett is author of *One and Done: How My Life Started After My Football Career Ended*. A nationally celebrated public speaker, he is co-host of *Business and Biceps*, a top-rated business podcast and founder of a successful behavioral health agency.

Brendan Cole is Athletic Director at The Field School in Washington D.C. Mr. Cole is a former three-time team captain and twice all-conference defensive back at Hampton University, where he earned his bachelor's degree in Strategic Communications with a minor in Political Science and a master's degree in Sports Administration. Formerly, he was Assistant Athletic Director and Head Boys Basketball Coach at Christchurch School.



Lawrence Flanagan has over 40 years of diversified business experiences ranging from global advertising agencies, leading consumer products companies, financial services, higher education, tech startups, venture capital and non-profits. Mr. Flanagan is currently Executive Advisor at 1843 Capital, Inc. focused on Age-Tech innovation and Vice President & Treasurer for The Citizens Association of Georgetown, America's oldest citizen's advocacy organization. He is the former Executive V.P. & Global Chief Marketing Officer for MasterCard Worldwide and President & Chief Executive Officer for AARP Services,

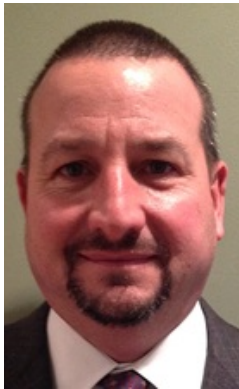
Inc.

Michael Gibbons is an attorney with a broad range of experience in the areas of organizational governance and athletes' rights. He has worked with an array of entities ranging from youth sports up to the Olympic and professional levels. Mr. Gibbons has advised local clubs, national governing bodies, pro sports teams and elite international athlete associations on how to improve management through better business and governance practices.



Emmett Gill, Ph.D., MSW, LMSW is the Chief Visionary Officer for Athletes and Advocates for Social Justice in Sports, the founder of AthleteTalk (a wellness app for athletes) and past president and founder of the Alliance of Social Workers in Sports. Dr. Gill formerly served as the Director of Student-Athlete Wellness and Personal Development and clinical professor in the Steve Hicks School of Social Work at the University of Texas at Austin and as a professional sports crisis and wellness program manager for the NFL and NBA – including the NFL Lifeline.

Michele Roberts, former Executive Director of the National Basketball Players Association and trial lawyer with Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom. Ms. Roberts is a top-ranked attorney who has received numerous accolades from Chambers Global, Chambers USA, and Benchmark Litigation, among other notable publications and a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers. She worked for eight years in the office of the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia, where she was named Chief of the Trial Division.



David Sacco is a Practitioner in Residence in the Finance program at the University of New Haven Pompea College of Business and a full-time instructor in the Finance, Economics, Management and Entrepreneurship programs. Mr. Sacco spent 25 years in the institutional fixed income business at The Chase Manhattan Bank and UBS, rising to the level of Managing Director and global head of Rates at UBS. He was also member of the UBS Investment Bank Board. Mr. Sacco also has an active consulting business for and invests in start-ups and small businesses.

REALIZING THE PROMISE...

(checkout our new TDGEF website)



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positive legislative change in college athletics -- working to help the U.S. Congress and higher education decision-makers address critical issues in college sport. **The Drake Group Education Fund** is its sister organization and public education arm responsible for producing *The Allen Sack National Symposium on Integrity in College Sports*, the *Critical Issues in College Sports Webinar Series*, and developing all educational materials and programs.

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