

# CHPPR Annual Conference - Athletes Interrupted - Pics & Bios



**Robert Pieretti, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, BCS-CL**

## **Opening Speaker**

**Speaker bio:** Robert Pieretti is an Associate Dean in the College of Health and Human Services at California State University. He serves as the Director of the Center for Health Practice, Policy, & Research (CHPPR). He worked for twenty-one years as a speech-language pathologist in the Sacramento City Unified School District, previously serving as

the Head Language, Speech, and Hearing Specialist for the District.

He has made over 100 presentations at local, state, and national levels, co-authored literacy skill development materials, and published several co-authored peer-reviewed journal and periodical articles regarding his research and work supporting monolingual and bilingual *students'* language and literacy skills. He is a California Speech-Language Hearing Association (CSHA) Fellow.

**Financial/Nonfinancial Disclosures:** Robert Pieretti has no financial disclosures related to the content of his presentation or this topic. He is the Associate Dean for Students and Personnel in the College of Health and Human Services, serving as the Director of the Center for Health Practice, Policy, and Research (CHPPR). He has a dedicated interest in topics related to health and wellness across the lifespan.



## Dave McGillivray

### Keynote Presenter

**Speaker Bio:** Running legend Dave McGillivray has increased the self-esteem of millions of people through his work as an entrepreneur, philanthropist, motivational speaker, author, and athlete. Dave is best known for his athletic feats, including his 80-day trek across the United States, running the 3,452 miles from Medford, Oregon, to

Medford, MA, in the summer of 1978 to benefit the Jimmy Fund. In addition, he's received great acclaim for directing or consulting on more than 1,400 events worldwide, including the Boston Marathon, the Olympic Marathon trials, and the Olympic Games.

As a motivational speaker for corporate, community, and educational audiences, Dave McGillivray translates his extraordinary life journeys and athletic achievements into life lessons that leave each audience wanting more.

### **Financial/Nonfinancial Disclosures:**

Dave McGillivray is an entrepreneur, philanthropist, motivational speaker, author, and athlete. He has an ongoing and dedicated interest in these topics relating to athletics.



## **Panel 1 Title: Traumatic Brain Injury: Considerations and Consequences for Athletes**



**Elisabeth (Lisa) D'Angelo, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, CBIS**

**Moderator: Panel One**

**Speaker Bio:** Dr. Lisa D'Angelo has been a Speech-Language Pathologist for 35 years in hospitals, clinics, and schools. She is an Associate Professor at California State University, Sacramento, teaching neurological development, assessment, and treatment.

Her research focuses on cognitive communication deficits after TBI, Concussion, and Dysphagia. She still works in the medical setting, and as a school Dysphagia/Feeding Specialist. She has presented nationally and internationally and published about TBI, school-based Dysphagia services, and concussion/Mild TBI.

**Financial/Nonfinancial Disclosures:** Lisa D'Angelo has no financial disclosures related to the content of his presentation or this topic. She is an Associate Professor of Communication Sciences & Disorders College of HHS, California State University, Sacramento. She has a dedicated interest in topics related to human development, neurological rehabilitation, and cognitive communication.



**Brian Moore, PT, DPT**

**Panelist**

**Speaker Bio:** Dr. Brian Moore is an Associate Professor in the Department of Physical Therapy at Sacramento State University. His research interests are based on his area of clinical practice in adult neurorehabilitation. He examines the effect of Physical Therapy intervention on outcomes for individuals with

persistent symptoms and disability following a mTBI/concussion.

He is also interested in investigating the reliability and validity of measurement tools and the effectiveness of interventions used in vestibular rehabilitation.

**Financial/Nonfinancial Disclosures:** Brian Moore has no financial disclosures related to the content of his presentation or this topic. He is an Assistant Professor at California State University, Sacramento. He has a dedicated interest in topics related to neurology and physical therapy across the lifespan.



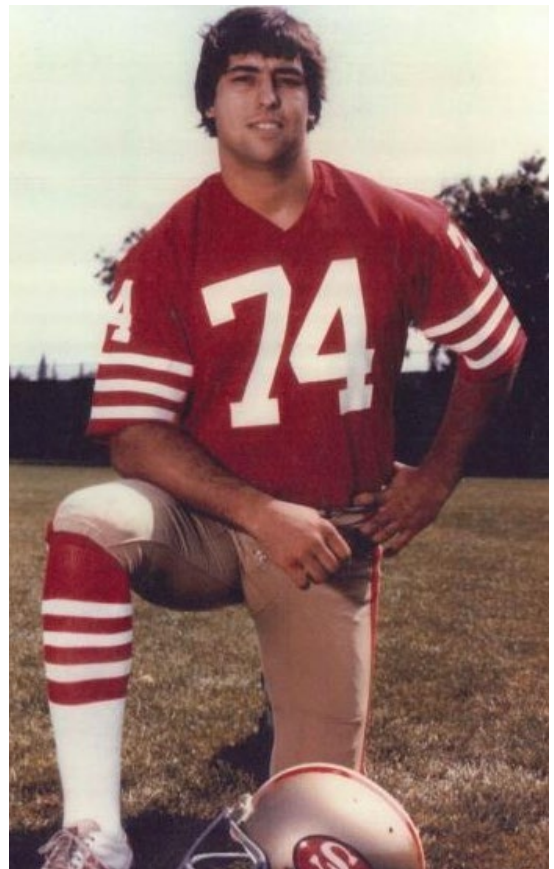
**George Viscar**

**Panelist**

**Speaker Bio:** During the 49ers 1981 Super Bowl season, George Visger developed hydrocephalus and survived nine emergency brain surgeries in twelve years, five while completing a Biology degree at Sac State. He was forced to win five Work Comp Hearings, eight Appeals, and three CA Court of Appeals to access treatments before settling his case in

2019, 38 years later. He uses the knowledge he has acquired over 43 years to not just “survive” but “thrive” and help other TBI survivors reach their goals.

**Financial/Nonfinancial Disclosures:** George Visger is a former professional football player and founder of the Visger Group. He has the following publications: *Out of My Head: My Life In and Out of Football*, and a biography: *FACING GIANTS; My 38-Year Battle*, published in March 2025. Mr. Visger has a dedicated interest in these topics relating to TBI, neurology, and neuroscience.







## **Amanda Morris, PhD**

### **Panelist**

**Speaker Bio: Dr.** Amanda Morris is an Assistant Professor of Kinesiology in the College of H&HS, California State University, Sacramento. Dr. Morris is also a founder and co-director of the new H&HS Health and Performance Clinic.

Her research focuses on biomechanics and neurophysiology, with particular emphasis on mild traumatic brain injury, post-concussion syndrome, and the effects of aging.

**Financial/Nonfinancial Disclosures:** Some of the work that Dr. Morris will discuss was funded by the Pac 12 Conference's Student-Athlete Health & Well-Being Initiative (PI: Dibble & Fino). The views are her own and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Pac-12 Conference or its members. Her salary for this work came from that funding, but Dr. Morris was not the PI listed on the grant.

## Panel 2 Title: Youth Sport: Health, Wellness, and Balancing Parental Expectations



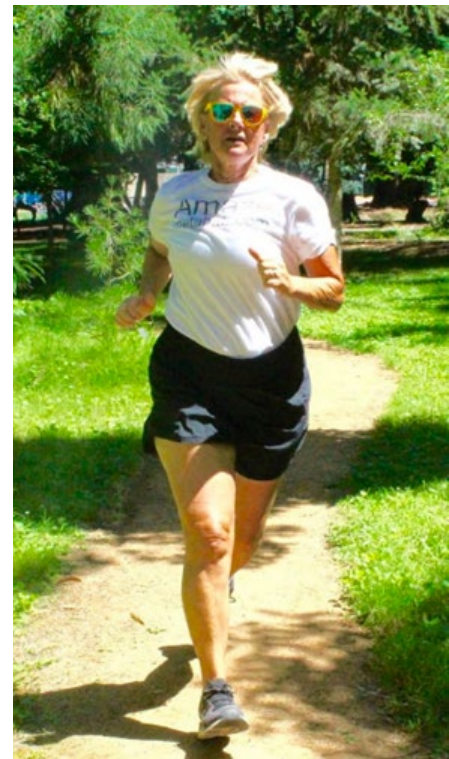
**Joyce Mikal-Flynn Ed.D. FNP, MSN**

**Moderator: Panel Two**

**Speaker Bio:** Dr. Joyce Mikal-Flynn received a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from USF, a Nurse Practitioner Degree from UC Davis, a Master of Science in Nursing at CSUS, and a Doctor of Education from St. Mary's College. Her initial research involved trauma-informed care, studying how individual survivors, over time, build resilience and experience

posttraumatic growth (PTG). She created Metahabilitation, a strengths-based clinical approach and system to help support a growth-enhancing outcome in the aftermath of trauma. Post-doctoral research focuses on how vicarious and secondary trauma survivors, as well as communities, become stronger and grow in the aftermath of trauma. Along with several peer-reviewed publications, she authored two books: *Turning Tragedy into Triumph*; *Metahabilitation, A Contemporary Model of Rehabilitation and Anatomy of a Survivor*; *Building Resilience, Grit and Growth After Trauma*. and created the sought-after course at CSUS, *Traumatology: An Introduction to Posttraumatic Growth*.

**Financial/Nonfinancial Disclosures:** Joyce Mikal-Flynn is a Professor at Sacramento State and the creator of Metahab. She has multiple publications and two books on Metahabilitation, a system promoting resilience and posttraumatic growth. She has an ongoing and dedicated interest in these topics relating to individual, secondary, and vicarious survivors.





## Aaron Crouch, DPT, CSCS, SFG1

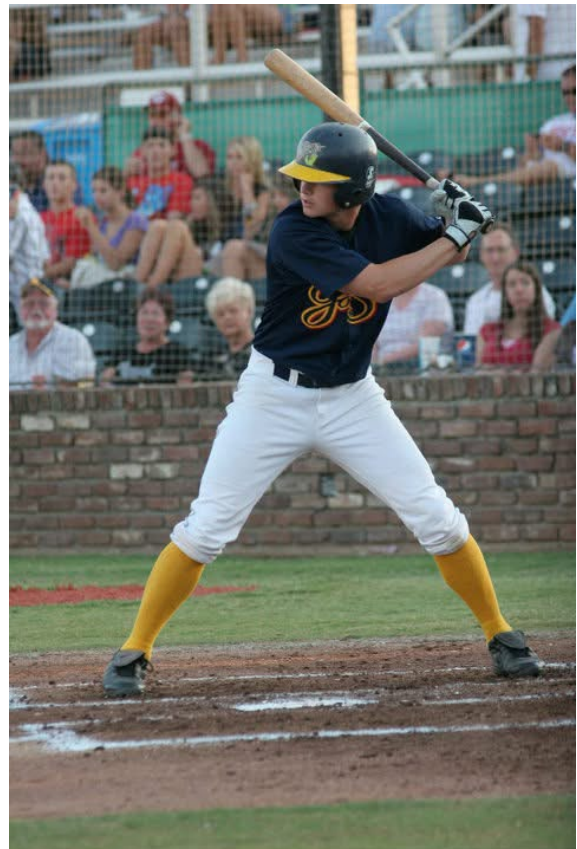
### Panelist

**Speaker Bio:** Dr. Aaron Crouch serves as a Regional Director at KIME Performance Physical Therapy, Lead education instructor for KIMEU, and current Fellow of High-Performance Sports Medicine. He teaches clinicians nationwide how to apply therapeutic and movement strategies through the FMT (Functional Movement Training) curriculum.

He is an elite-level Physical Therapist and Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist. In addition to receiving his Doctorate of Physical Therapy from Sacramento State, he has accumulated vast professional experiences from various organizations, including the San Francisco Giants and USA Track & Field. As a former NCAA Division I Baseball player, he performs team movement assessments for Sacramento Region high school, junior college, and four-year university baseball programs.

### **Financial/Nonfinancial Disclosures:**

Aaron Crouch has no financial disclosures related to the content of his presentation or this topic. He is the Regional Director at KIME Performance Physical Therapy. He has a dedicated interest in topics related to physical therapy and sports medicine.







## Catherine Wuthrich

### Panelist

**Speaker Bio:** Catherine Wuthrich was an All-American water polo player in high school, earning first-team All-NorCal and All-League. As a junior college All-American, Catherine went on to play at Santa Clara University, where she became a collegiate All-American, setting the record for most goals scored in one season and leading the team to the highest ranking in the program's history, 12th in the country. Catherine finished her water polo career playing professionally for two years for the NSW Killer Whales water polo team in Sydney, Australia. She earned a degree from the Leavey School of Business at Santa Clara University and has three children ages 9, 7, and 4, who she loves to coach as they play multiple recreational sports.

**Financial/Nonfinancial Disclosures:** Catherine Wuthrich has no financial disclosures related to the content of her presentation or this topic. She has a dedicated interest in topics related to child development and sports, from recreational to competitive.





## Roxanne Mefford

### Panelist

**Speaker Bio:** Roxanne Mefford brings over 40 years of experience coaching swimmers aged 4 to 18. She has guided her three children in sports, with her sons excelling in competitive swimming. Both sons swam for UC Berkeley, earning All-American honors, qualifying for Nationals, representing the USA team, and competing in the Olympic Trials. Her younger son placed 5th in the 2024 Olympic Trials, while her middle son achieved Olympic success in 2021, finishing 4th in the 200m backstroke.

Roxanne's extensive coaching experience and her children's remarkable achievements have given her a deep understanding of the dedication, determination, and challenges faced by parents of athletes who transition into elite competitors.

**Financial/Nonfinancial Disclosures:** Roxanne Mefford has no financial disclosures related to the content of his presentation or this topic. She has a dedicated interest in topics related to child development and sports, from recreational to competitive.



## **Panel 3 Title: Adapted Athletics: Recognizing and Applying Strengths and Abilities**



**Jamie Hoffman, EdD**

**Moderator: Panel 3**

**Speaker Bio:** Dr. Jamie Hoffman is a California State University, Sacramento faculty member specializing in recreational therapy. Her research focuses on the impact of adapted sports, therapeutic interventions on physical and mental health, and international perspectives on disability.

Dr. Hoffman is passionate about improving accessibility and inclusivity in recreation programs for diverse populations, including individuals with disabilities. She actively contributes to the professional development of future recreational therapy specialists and advocates for the benefits of recreation as a tool for enhancing quality of life. Dr. Hoffman holds a Certified Recreational Therapy Specialist (CRTS) credential and is a dedicated educator and researcher.

**Nonfinancial Disclosures:** Dr. Jamie Hoffman has no financial disclosures related to the content of her presentation or this topic. She is the Chair of the Department of Recreation, Park & Tourism Administration at California State University, Sacramento. She has a dedicated interest in topics related to Recreational Therapy and Recreation Services for People with Disabilities.



**Chan Woong Park, Ph.D., C.A.P.E.**

**Panelist**

**Speaker Bio:** A graduate of the University of Alabama, Dr. Park has an extensive academic background in sports pedagogy and clinical experience working with individuals with disabilities in school and sports settings. He has also received a prior NCAA research grant which focused on adapted sports and collegiate athletes with disabilities. His current research addresses the role of adapted sports in modifying individual and collective perceptions of disability, physical education, and adapted physical education.

**Financial/Nonfinancial Disclosures:** Dr. Chan Woong Park has no financial disclosures related to the content of his presentation or this topic. He is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Kinesiology at Sacramento State University. He has a dedicated interest in topics related to Physical Education and Adapted Physical Education.





## Roger Oberholzer

### Panelist

**Speaker Bio:** Roger Oberholzer, a Blind Marathon runner from Folsom, CA, grew up in Schlieren near Zurich, Switzerland. Since starting his running journey in 2018, Roger has completed the 2022 Boston Marathon, 2022 New York City Marathon, 2023 Chicago Marathon, and 2024 London Marathon. His goal is to earn the Abbott Six Star Medal, given

to athletes for successfully completing the original six marathon events - Tokyo, Boston, London, Berlin, Chicago, and New York. Guided by his determination and running guides, Roger inspires others with his dedication to sports and breaking barriers in athletics.

**Financial/Nonfinancial Disclosures:** Roger Oberholzer has no financial disclosures related to the content of his presentation or this topic. He is an adapted athlete. He has a dedicated interest in topics related to adapted athletics, including running, tandem cycling, water skiing, skiing, and surfing.





**Matt Scott**

**Panelist**

**Speaker Bio:** Wheelchair basketball legend Matt Scott has carved his name in Paralympic history. A five-time Paralympian, Matt's dedication to excellence has propelled him to the top of his sport. His impressive career with Team USA includes back-to-back Paralympic gold (Rio 2016 and Tokyo 2020)

and a 12-year professional wheelchair basketball career playing in multiple European leagues.

His collection of accolades and commitment to raising the perception of wheelchair basketball has earned widespread support across the adaptive sports community. Matt is passionate about uplifting the disability community. Recognizing the need for broader support, Matt launched Fly Without Limits, a global social impact organization. Fly Without Limits breaks down barriers for people with disabilities, equipping them with the tools and resources to reach their full potential while fostering a sense of inclusion and belonging within the disability community.

**Financial/Nonfinancial Disclosures:** Matt Scott has no financial disclosures related to the content of his presentation or this topic. He is an adapted athlete. He has a dedicated interest in topics related to adapted athletics.



## Panel 4 Title: The Evolving Athlete: Life Beyond the Game



**Bethany Crouch**

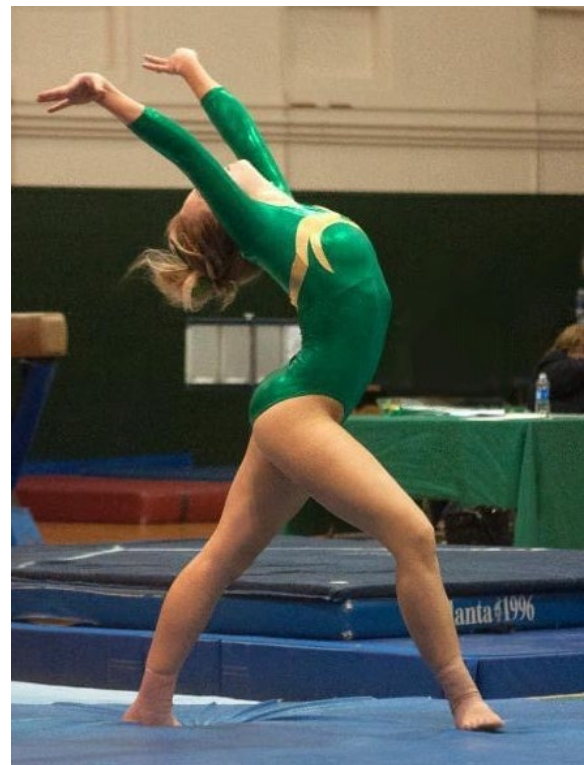
**Moderator: Panel 4**

**Speaker Bio:** Bethany Crouch is a former competitive gymnast with 15 years of experience, concluding at the NCAA D1 Collegiate level for Sacramento State, who transitioned into a successful career as a collegiate athletics professional. As the Coordinator of Athletics Academic Programs at Sacramento State, Bethany has dedicated over eight years to advising NCAA Division I student-athletes, ensuring compliance with NCAA eligibility requirements, and supporting their academic success.

Bethany oversees the Student-Athlete Mentoring Program, coordinating academic workshops for first-year athletes and mentoring a team of staff members to provide tailored academic coaching support. She continues to empower student-athletes to excel academically, athletically, and personally.

### **Financial/Nonfinancial Disclosures:**

Bethany Crouch has no financial disclosures related to the content of his presentation or this topic. She is the Student-Athlete Academic Success Services Coordinator at California State University, Sacramento. She has a dedicated interest in topics related to sports management.







## **Sam Hendrix McCowan**

### **Panelist**

**Speaker Bio:** Sam Hendrix-McCowan earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology from Sacramento State University. A former Sacramento State football player, Sam participated as a true freshman and played each season during his time at the university. His journey highlights various challenges and adversities that have shaped his growth beyond athletics. He is dedicated to developing youth, student-athletes, and the community, empowering and inspiring them by providing the tools they need to thrive.

Sam's experiences are featured in the Athletes Interrupted podcast series, which addresses the challenges student-athletes face when transitioning from high school athletics to college academics. He is currently pursuing his Master's degree in School Counseling.

**Financial/Nonfinancial Disclosures:** Sam Hendrix-McCowan has no financial disclosures related to the content of his presentation or this topic. He has a dedicated interest in topics related to fitness, sports, and athletes' mental health.





## Cameron Law

### Panelist

**Speaker Bio:** Cameron Law is a Sacramento native who brings his passion and love for Sacramento and his experience in social ventures, venture capital, and economic development to the Carlsen Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship as the Executive Director. He is an active entrepreneurial ecosystem-builder working through the Carlsen Center to make the Greater Sacramento region a premier hub for innovation and entrepreneurship. His core values are love and service.

**Financial/Nonfinancial Disclosures:** Nonfinancial Disclosures: Cameron Law has no financial disclosures related to the content of his presentation or this topic. He is the Executive Director of the Carlson Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship. He has a dedicated interest in topics related to social ventures, venture capital, and economic development.





**Amy Vella**

**Panelist**

**Speaker Bio:** Amy Vella is the Senior Sales Manager at Gartner and has several years of experience in technology enterprise sales and strategic account management. She is passionate about coaching sales professionals to master their craft and overcome adversity to achieve optimal results. She values a positive culture and believes that success is a team

sport. Amy was a Division 1 scholarship athlete at UCLA.

She was part of the PAC-10 Championship team in 2001, 2003, and 2004, which included NCAA Final Four appearances in 2003 and 2004, and most importantly, became a NCAA Final Four Finalist in 2004. She is part of the Bruin Athletics Council, guiding and inspiring student-athletes as they navigate their post-college decisions.

**Financial/Nonfinancial Disclosures:**

Amy Vella has no financial disclosures related to the content of his presentation or this topic. She is the senior Sales Manager of Large Enterprise at Gartner. She has a dedicated interest in topics related to sports.





## **Bryce Mefford**

### **Sports: The Great Balancing Act!**

**Speaker Bio:** Bryce Mefford is a former Olympic swimmer (Tokyo 2020), four-time National team member, and four-time All-American, leading the University of California, Berkeley to the 2022 NCAA & Pac-12 team titles. In 2019, he also represented the United States at the World University Games. Besides

his incredible accomplishments in the pool, he holds a B.S. in Environmental Economics & Policy from UC Berkeley and certifications in Project Management and Entrepreneurship. He brings leadership, teamwork, and a results-oriented mindset to all his endeavors, including his current role as the Go-To-Market Service Experience Analyst at Visa Inc.

**Financial/Nonfinancial Disclosures:** Bryce Mefford has no financial disclosures related to the content of her presentation or this topic. He is a Service Experience Analyst at Visa Inc. He has a dedicated interest in topics related to sports.



**Andrea Becker, PhD**

**Closing**

**Speaker Bio:** Dr. Andrea Becker is the Director of the Health Science Program at Sacramento State University. Her expertise is in the psychology of coaching and elite sport performance. She currently serves as the Sport Psychology Coach for the USA Men’s Volleyball Team and previously served as an assistant coach at UC Irvine (2011-12) and

UCLA (2012-15). Becker earned her PhD Sport Studies from the University of Tennessee and her MS and BS in Kinesiology and Sport Performance from Sacramento State. As an undergraduate, Becker played on the Sacramento State Softball team (1997- 01). Prior to returning to Sacramento State in 2017, she was a professor in the Department of Kinesiology at California State University, Fullerton.

**Financial/Nonfinancial Disclosures:** Dr. Andrea Becker has no financial disclosures related to the content of her presentation or this topic. She is an Associate Professor of Kinesiology at California State University, Sacramento. She has a dedicated interest in topics related to sports psychology and coaching.

