

Sarah J. Hillyer, Ph.D.

EDUCATION

University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN

2006-2010

- Ph.D. Exercise and Sport Sciences
- Concentration - Sport Sociology
- Dissertation - Women's Softball in Iran: An Autoethnographic Journey
- ESPN Doctoral Fellowship Award
- Chancellor's Honors 2008 Graduate Teaching Award
- Eva Mag 2009 Woman of the Year
- Designed Sports Studies 337 Course - Women's Sports: An International Perspective
- Co-designed Sports Studies Service Learning Course: Sport & Community Development for Iraqi's with Refugee Status living in Knoxville, TN

Murray State University, Murray, KY

2001-2002

- Master of Science
- Exercise and Leisure Studies
- Concentration - Sport Psychology
- Thesis/Project - Sport & Religion: A Reciprocal Relationship

Liberty University, Lynchburg, VA

1991-1993

- Bachelor of Arts
- Physical Education
- Concentration - Sport Management
- Member of Women's Basketball Team

EXPERIENCE

Global Sports Partners | Sport 4 Peace

2003 - Present

Global Sports Partners - International Women's Coordinator

Sport 4 Peace - Founder

Sport 4 Peace, a division of Global Sports Partners, is a non-profit, non-political organization that aspires to communicate a spirit of solidarity through the agency of sport. By way of sports development, training, education, and cultural exchange, S4P and GSP have developed meaningful and lasting relationships with girls and women throughout the Middle East, North Africa, and Asia. We believe that sport in its purest form and when used with intentionality provides a unique opportunity for dialogue, camaraderie, and the exchange of ideas. We believe the qualities of sport generate incalculable possibilities for girls and women who desire to live in a more peaceful world.

Sports Studies Graduate Teaching Assistant

2002; 2006-2010

Murray State University

2002

- Personal Health & Wellness

University of Tennessee

2006-2010

- Sociocultural Foundations of Sport and Recreation
- Social Issues in Sport
- Women in Sport: An International Perspective - In 2007, I created this course in response to an absence of undergraduate courses in the Sports Studies Department that focused on a diverse global perspective of health, recreation, and sport.

Leadership Consultant - National Consortium for Academics and Sport (NCAS)

University of Central Florida - Orlando, FL

August 2009 - present

As a leadership consultant for the NCAS, I facilitate educational training sessions for student-athletes, coaches, and athletics administration in the following programming areas: Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP) and Branded a Leader (BAL). Both programs are designed to challenge student-athletes to think critically about difficult social situations and to equip them with the information and skills they need to make good decisions. Some of the topics covered include: gender violence, public drunkenness, irresponsible computing, mental health, fighting, guns, street drugs, anti-hazing, and diversity/intolerance.

Head Women's Softball Coach

1996-2002

- Campbellsville University 1996-1999
- Mid-Continent University 2000-2002

National Intercollegiate Athletic Association

Kentucky High School Athletic Association

2004-2006

- Women's Basketball Official/Referee
- Women's Fastpitch Softball Official/Umpire

GSP/S4P - A Brief Project History (by country)

2004 - present

Iraq

•Current/Summer 2010 - Baghdad Youth Sports Initiative (BYSI): Funded by the U.S. Embassy Small Grants Program. Overall, our goal is to instill principles, which produce healthy attitudes, and nurture constructive practices which build strong minds and ethical citizens, producing a social bond seeking the highest standards for the collective good. We will soon be conducting 3 Basketball Instructional camps (5 days/boys, 4 days/girls, 5 days/coaches) and an Adaptive Sports Program for Disabled Youth (3 days/co-ed). The camps emphasize skills, techniques, teamwork, problem-solving, and the promotion of character values. They are also designed to launch a reproducible, sustainable public school Sports/PhysEd module and an after school sports/recreation program. The Adaptive Program promotes sensitivity and demonstrates our message of inclusion -- ethnic, religious, social, gender, economic, and physical ability. GSP offers this program to promote the message of reconstruction and reconciliation among youth. Values dictate behavior, and the expected outcome

is that this project will redeem some youth and inspire others, enabling them to contribute to a strong and peaceful civil society.

- Summer 2009 - Iraqi Basketball Visitor Program: Funded by, sponsored by, and in partnership with the United States Department of State SportsUnited Visitor Program, S4P/GSP co-hosted a team of 12 Iraqi youth girl basketball players and coaches from Iraq and Kurdistan in Washington, D.C. and Knoxville, TN. Highlights of the Iraqi girls' basketball team included attending a WNBA Washington Mystics game and two sessions at The University of Tennessee Pat Summitt's basketball camp.
- Summers 2009 & 2008 - Kurdistan & Gizing Girls Basketball Camp: Funded and sponsored by the National Olympic Committee of Iraq, the National Olympic Committee of Kurdistan, the Iraq Basketball Association, the Kurdistan Basketball Association. Six girls basketball teams from Babylon, Baghdad, Mosul, Dohuk, and Sulaimaniya (2) attended the camp.

Iran

- Winter 2010 - Islamic Federation of Women's Sports (IFWS) Committee Meetings - GSP hosted thirteen members of the IFWS Women with Special Needs, Athletes, and Sport & Development Committees. Currently I am serving as Vice-Chairperson on the IFWS Sport & Development Committee - Orlando, FL.
- Summer 2008 - Iran National Women's Softball Team Selection Training Camp: Hosted by the Iran Baseball, Softball, Cricket & Rugby Federation. Players from Mashad, Isfahan, Bushehr, Qom, and Tehran participated in the Tehran & Isfahan clinics.
- Summer 2007 - Iran/USA Women's Softball Friendship Tournament: Sponsored by the Iran Baseball, Softball, Cricket & Rugby Federation and GSP. A team of American softball players traveled to Tehran to take part in Iran's first-ever international women's softball competition. Iranian teams from Bushehr, Mashad, and Tehran competed in the friendly tournament.
- Winters 2006/2007 - Iran Women's Softball: Players and Coaches Development Program: Hosted by the Iran Baseball, Softball, Cricket & Rugby Federation. Training camps were held in Tehran, Mashad, Bushehr, and Kerman.
- Fall 2005 - Fourth Islamic Women's Games: Islamic Federation of Women's Sports - I served as Sarah Kureshi's coach and manager during the Games. Ms. Kureshi was the first-ever American-Muslim athlete to compete in Iran since before 1979 - Tehran.
- Fall 2004 - International Council Health Physical Education Recreation-Dance- Middle East Conference: I presented a paper in the Sport & Religion session titled Sport & Religion - A Reciprocal Relationship - Tehran.
- Fall 2003 - Islamic Women's Sports Federation Committee Meetings: As a 2002-2003 member of the IFWS Sport Marketing Committee, I attended and contributed to the annual committee meetings held in Muscat, Oman.
- Summer 2002 - Iran/USA Women's Basketball Solidarity Friendship Cup: Sponsored by the IFWS. A GSP team of former NCAA women's basketball players participated in the friendly competitions. The Iran/USA Solidarity Friendship Cup represented the first-ever Iranian-American women's sports exchange since before 1979 - Tehran.
- Summer 2002 - Iran Women's Fastpitch Softball Solidarity Development Initiative: Sponsored by the Iran Baseball, Softball, Cricket & Rugby Federation. I accepted an invitation from the Softball Federation to introduce women's fastpitch softball to girls and women Tehran, Isfahan, & Mashad.

As of 2002, there were no softball teams for Iranian women. Currently, in 2010, there are approximately 15 active women's teams playing throughout the country. GSP continues to provide equipment, training, & educational materials to the Softball Federation. In 2009, Iran sent its first-ever women's softball team outside the country to compete. The team participated in the Asian Junior Women's Softball Championship.

- Fall 2001 - Third Muslim Women's Games - Tehran. I attended the Games as part of a GSP four-member U.S. delegation - "Goodwill Ambassadors to the Games" - Tehran.

- Winter 2000 - Islamic Federation of Women's Sports Solidarity Initiative - Mrs. Faezeh Hashemi, founder and president of the Islamic Federation of Women's Sports, invited GSP to Tehran to explore future opportunities for sport development, sport placement, and sport exchange, and to promote solidarity through girls and women's sports in cooperation with the IFWS, Physical Education Organization, National Olympic Committee of Iran, National Paralympic Committee of Iran, Iran Basketball Federation, & Iran Softball Federation - Tehran.

Israel

- Summer 2006 - Sport for Life Peace Camp - In partnership with Musalaha, a non-profit organization that seeks to promote reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians, S4P co-created an all-girls sports camp for Israeli and Palestinian youth. Team sports were used to encourage trust, respect, and communication between the participants and topics such as identity, stereotypes, religious violence, and ethnic discrimination were addressed in a series of conflict resolution and peacebuilding workshops - Wingate Institute, Netanya.

- Summers 2006, 2005, 2004, & 2001 - Israeli Women's National & Junior National Team Softball Training Camp: In partnership with Israel Softball Association - Petah Tiqva.

Jordan

- Summer 2006 - Inaugural Jordan Little League Basketball Development Initiative - In partnership with Greg McGraw, currently a Generations of Peace Sport Director, GSP/S4P led the first-ever boys and girls Little League Summer Basketball Camps - Amman & Aqaba.

Tunisie

- Summer 2006 - Tunisie Youth Baseball & Physical Education Sport Initiative: In partnership with Djerbe Elementary School Physical Education - Djerbe.

- Summers 2004, 2003, 2001 - Tunisie Women's Basketball Friendship Initiative: In partnership with Tunisie National Olympic Committee and Tunisie Basketball Association - Tunis, Bizerte.

Morocco

- Summer 2005 - Morocco Youth & Women's Basketball Project - Casablanca, Rommani, Sale, Rabat, Had Dra.

Turkey

- Summer 2005 - Istanbul Girls Softball & Boys Baseball Project - Sponsored by Boğaziçi University
- Summer 1999 - Istanbul Basketball Friendly Exhibition Tour - Istanbul.

China/Inner Mongolia

- Summer 2005 - Wuhan Sports Institute Women's Basketball Friendship Project - Wuhan.
- Summer 2002 - Inner Mongolia Women's Basketball Friendship Tour - Hohhot.
- Summer 2001 - China Women's Fastpitch Softball Friendship Tour - Beijing, Gansu Province.
- Summer 2000 - China Women's Basketball Friendship Tour - Shanghai, Zhejiang Province, Xian.
- Summer 1999 - China Women's Fastpitch & Slowpitch Friendship Project - Beijing.

- Summer 1998 - China Women's Slowpitch & Sport for All Project - Beijing.
- Summer 1998 - China Women's Basketball Friendship Tour - Beijing, Tianjin.
- Summer 1997 - China/U.S. Women's Slowpitch Friendship Games - Beijing.
- Summer 1997 - China/U.S. Women's Basketball Friendship Tour: Xian, Shenyang, Dandong, Benxi, Tianjin, Beijing.
- Summer 1996 - Chinese Women's National Softball Team at 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games: Hosted the Chinese Women's National Softball team and arranged exhibition matches for the team prior to the Game's opening competitions - Atlanta, GA.
- Summer 1996 - China/U.S. Women's Basketball Friendship Tour - Beijing, Shenyang Province.
- Summer 1995 - China/U.S. Women's Basketball Friendship Tour - Beijing, Xinxiang, Sanmenxia, Xian, Shenyang, Benxi, Tianjin.
- Summer 1994 - China/U.S. Women's Basketball Friendship Tour - Beijing, Kunming, Shenyang, Liaoyang.

USA

- Summers 1993-2003 - State and Federal Women's Prison Social Development through Recreational Sport Program - Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio, Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Tennessee.
- Spring 2009 & 2010 - Knox Kicks: Kicking it Around the Globe: Co-created a soccer camp for Knoxville-area African and Middle Eastern children with refugee status.

SCHOLARSHIPS/GRANTS

Global Sports Partners, U.S. Embassy Small Grants Program (\$248,891.00). Summer 2010.

Hillyer, S., College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences Ready for the World (\$1,500.00). Funded. Researcher. Summer 2009.

Huffman, A. & Hillyer, S.J., College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences Ready for the World (\$6,000). Funded. Co-researcher. July 2008.

PUBLICATIONS

Hillyer, S.J. & Huffman, A. (2010). Mission accomplished: Using sport to bring women together in the heart of the Middle East. *National Association for Girls and Women in Sport Position Paper Series*.

Huffman, A., Hillyer, S.J., & DeSensi, J. (2010). Sport for Life Peace Camp Israel: Overcoming obstacles, forging friendships, and changing lives through sport. *Women in Sport and Physical Activity Journal* (forthcoming).

Wiggins, M.S., Hillyer, S., & Brown, C. (2005). Pilot study of Muslim women's perceptions on religion in sport. *Psychological Report*, 96, 787-790.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

Sport 4 Peace. Guest presenter, University of Tennessee College of Education, Health, & Human Sciences Board of Visitors, Knoxville, TN, 2008 & 2009.

A Woman's Place is at Home: Women's Perceptions of Playing Fast-Pitch Softball in the Islamic Republic of Iran. Copenhagen Summer Institute, Copenhagen, Denmark, 2008.

Sport for Life Peace Camp--A Weapon of Mass Instruction: Developing Dialogue and Diplomacy for Arab and Israeli Girls Through Sport. American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance, Baltimore, MD, 2007.

Sport for Life Peace Camp. Special Summer Program at the Knoxville Jewish Community Center, Knoxville, TN, 2007.

Women's Sport Initiatives in Israel and Iran. Knoxville Business Women's Group, Knoxville, TN, 2007.

What's Being Done for Muslim Women in Sport? Women, Gender, and Sport in Africa, Athens, OH, 2006.

Sport for Life: Solidarity Between Arab and Israeli Communities. North American Society for Sport Sociology, Vancouver, BC, 2006.

Exploring the Role of Sport to Promote Peace in International Settings. College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences Student Colloquium, Knoxville, TN, 2006.