

# Meet Our NEACSM Past President



**NEACSM's 14th President:** David N. Camaione, Ph.D., FACSM

**Education:** B.S., The Ohio State University, 1960; M.A., 1961; Ph.D., 1969

**Current or most recent affiliation:** Professor Emeritus, UCONN, Director-Center for Health Fitness, Department Head- Kinesiology, Acting Dean, School of Education

**Honors & Awards:** Fellow of the ACSM, NEACSM Honor Award & Service Awards, CAHPERD Merit and Honor awards, EDA Presidential and Merit Awards, and Four Halls of Fame

**Professional Interests:** Coaching wrestling, teaching science-related courses, serving as a university administrator to build exercise programs and pursuing my research interests in the areas of health fitness, fitness management, health promotion, and assessment of public safety personnel.

## NEACSM Service

### 1. What first inspired you to enter the exercise science/sports medicine Field? What made you decide to pursue your advance degree and/or line of research/service?

What inspired me to enter the field of Exercise Science (Physiology) was the newness of this emerging profession in the 1960s. It was my major advisor Dr. Don Mathews, a researcher on the cutting edge of this innovative program, who inspired me to pursue this career option and who provided inspirational support.

### 2. As a student, who were your mentors and what role did they play in your professional development? As a professional, was there anyone who was also instrumental in your career development?

Several faculty members at The Ohio State University inspired me to pursue the field of HPE and later Exercise Physiology. The one undergraduate professor who stood out was Dr. Delbert Oberteuffer. Bill Wall at MacMurray College probably had the greatest impact on my next 33 years. And my close friendship with Drs. Ed Fox and Dick Bowers, two outstanding scholars during their careers, were inspirational on many levels.

### 3. Why and how did you decide to get involved with NEACSM? How did your service help you grow as a professional?

My involvement with the NEACSM group really started with the famous "New England Exercise Physiology Interest Group (EPIG)" back in the early 1970s. My greater involvement stems from my work to enhance the Exercise Science program at UCONN.

### 4. What are your most memorable moments from your service to NEACSM?

The first of is the wonderful association with many dedicated and highly competent professionals members of this prestigious group. My good fortune to be a leader within this group and make an impact on the organization's culture is about as gratifying as it can get. To involve students and earmark resources for student activities was a joy to accomplish. Our Thursday night get together dinners at the fall conference and the social after the annual event were special.

### 5. What were some of the main issues confronting NEACSM at the time of your presidency?

Helping make the Chapter one of the best in the nation. It was well attended with outstanding programs, but it struggled in reaching a larger audience. Adding other associations to the mix including Cardiac Rehab and NE Fitness groups helped. Running the chapter's operations out of the faculty office of the incoming president limited its scope and impact, this needed to be addressed.

**6. What do you think are your most meaningful contributions to NEACSM?**

Championing the cause to create the honor award by providing an overt public thank you in honoring professionals who have given so much to the chapter and to the national ACSM was noteworthy. With the help of Drs. Garber and Manfredi, the chapter office became a regular fixture with the conference going to a larger venue. The most significant personal contribution was the institution of the Camaione Fund which I had no knowledge of nor can take any credit for its creation; it was a family project and one in which I am profoundly proud. From a professional standpoint, I am pleased to have had five former Ph.D. students and eight colleagues from UCONN serve as Chapter Presidents since my tenure in 1985-86, accounting for 13 in the last 30 years.

**7. What do you think are your most meaningful contributions to the field of exercise science/sports medicine?**

Making contributions to one's profession is always difficult to assess, but if I was able to raise the awareness of health fitness and promotion for corporations, commercial fitness, public safety personnel, and other public agencies and schools, I am most satisfied with what that journey accomplished.

To have elevated the importance of Exercise Science at CCSU by creating course content for a host of science-related courses. Establishing a basic Human Performance Laboratory was rewarding. To have created a second Human Performance Laboratory at UCONN and hosting a number of Sports Medicine Conferences and Seminars to enhance the school's visibility was noteworthy.

Joining forces with UCONN's AD in planning the construction of Gampel Pavilion to include over 13,000 square feet of space for our departmental faculty, including offices, rooms for seminars and classrooms, but most importantly the creation of four research laboratories was the defining moment in enhancing the research-based program in Exercise Science at UCONN.

Authoring or co-authoring three national textbook publications.

**8. What advice would you have for future leaders of NEACSM?**

If there is one singular aspect that might be the foundation for success, it is for each and every future leader to possess a profound passion for their profession. They need to care sincerely about all those with whom they will come into contact. Cultivating interpersonal relationships will be one of the most meaningful aspects of their professional career.

**9. What advice would you give to students who are looking to pursue a career in exercise science/sports medicine?**

It is about one's dreams. Find a position that you will thoroughly enjoy doing, whether it makes you a lot of money or not. When you get up in the morning, you should look forward to each and every day at what it is you do. Find ways to make contributions to your chosen field, take chances, become a change agent and ultimately give back by making a difference. I am extremely proud of my association with former student-athletes, with thousands I taught at CCSU and with the 124 M.A. and 14 Ph.D. students I mentored.