

Meet Our NEACSM Past President



NEACSM's 13th President: Gary S. Skrinar

Education: B.A. Physical Education, Oklahoma City University, 1964; M.S. Exercise Physiology, University of Illinois, 1965; Ph.D. in Exercise Physiology, University of Pittsburgh, 1978.

Current or most recent affiliation: Boston University, 1978-2008.

Honors & Awards: 1984 Fellow of the American College of Sports Medicine, 1985 Award of Merit (For outstanding professional service to Sargent College), Boston University, 1991 Service Award, New England Chapter of the American College of Sports Medicine, 1992 Honor Award, New England Chapter of the American College of Sports Medicine

Professional Interests: Exercise and Mental Illness; Clinical Exercise Physiology

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?

Graduate work while I was at the University of Illinois.

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?

Mentors: TK Cureton (University of Illinois), Bruce J. Noble (University of Illinois and University of Pittsburgh), Robert J. Robertson (University of Pittsburgh).

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

As an Assistant Professor at Boston University in 1978, Skip Knuttgen was instrumental in NEACSM... It was only fitting that I contribute to the organization as a member of ACSM and the New England Chapter.

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

My most memorable moment was the idea and initiation of the NEACSM scholarship programs in 1985 during my Presidency. I started the awards for deserving undergraduates and graduates.

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

Student involvement.

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

The scholarship program.

7. What do you think are your most meaningful contributions to the field of Exercise Science/Sports Medicine?

Research in the area of women's menstrual function related to exercise and physical activity's contribution to the population of people with mental illness.

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

Become involved as early as possible in your careers; give NEACSM the benefit of your expertise in research, teaching and clinical fields.

9. What advice would you give to students who are looking to pursue a career in Exercise Science/Sports Medicine?

Contribute whenever possible, be flexible, patient, and don't be afraid to try something new.