



POINT IN LINE

A USFCA WEBZINE

United States Fencing Coaches Association
<http://usfca.org/>

President's Message
From the USFCA President
Abdel Salem



2012 is an election year for the USFCA. By now you should have received the Nomination Committee's report from Chair Wendell Kubik.

The Executive Committee has decided not to hold an annual conference in July. This decision is due to the desire to allow the coaches to enjoy watching the Olympics and to support USA Fencing's upcoming Coaches Clinic which will be held in Florida.

Our AGM (Annual General Meeting) will be held in Denver the same time as a clinic in August. More information on this will be available soon. Colorado is a beautiful place to visit any time of year.

We continue to move forward with all of our projects. Please let us know if there is anything that we can do to serve you better.



Photo by Ray Parker

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*"A teacher who is attempting to teach without inspiring the pupil with a desire to learn is hammering on a cold iron."
Horace Mann*

USFCA Annual Meeting

This year's Annual Meeting will be held in conjunction with a three-weapon National Training Program Clinic, in Denver, CO, from August 24-26, 2012.

Location: Fencing Academy of Denver, 8000 South Lincoln Street, Littleton, CO

The Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, August 25, at noon.

Presenters will use the USFCA's National Training Program and certification examinations will be available. Hotel information & on-line registration will be available by April 1, 2012 on askfred.net.

Meeting agenda will be e-mailed prior to the meeting.

Inaugural USFCA Super Clinic Report

By Rob Handelman

The first USFCA Super Clinic for coaches was held in San Francisco, California. This was the initial implementation of the United States Fencing Coaches Association National Training Program. There were thirty-two attendees from various parts of the North American continent, including Ontario, Canada, Baton Rouge, LA., Columbus, OH., Albuquerque, NM., and all up and down the West Coast, from Seattle to San Diego. The principle Fencing Masters and hosts were Maître Peter Burchard, West Coast Regional VP of the USFCA, Maître Robert Handelman, Chair of the Credentialing and Accreditation Board (CAB) of the USFCA, and Maître Wang Yung, member of the CAB. On test day (and there were many tests to administer) additional fencing masters Cole Harkness, George Platt and Ted Katzoff, as well as Prévôt Michael Heggen also participated.



Over the rigorous four days of instruction a great deal was covered including: blade technique, blade presentations, target presentations, coaching posture, footwork, as well as timing and distance for actions. Lesson structure was described and practiced for the warm-up, teaching and training lessons. There was also a complete review of all material to be mastered by the various levels of certification. These levels are Assistant Moniteur, Moniteur, Prévôt and Maître. The candidates were split into three different groups, according to weapon, and each group was supervised by a fencing master to make sure each concept was clear and that the acquisition of pedagogically sound material was grasped and implemented.

Each attendee was furnished with a packet, including detailed manuals for mastery of up to six different levels of pedagogy. While four days is not nearly enough time to comfortably understand all of the material presented, the National Training Program concepts were clearly presented. The attending coaches are now able to take their written materials back to their various clubs and improve their coaching group classes and individual lessons.

Feedback from the coaches indicates that some changes to the format should be implemented. Each coach will be given a skills inventory assessment. The demonstration of various actions and lesson skills by the coaches will help to place them at the proper level for the clinic. The goal is for each coach to work at a level that will stimulate and challenge them to improve. This inventory will also show specifically what the coaches need to improve on and whether the coach should be recommended for a specific level practical test.

The USFCA's new NTP training format is definitely something to be proud of as is the launch of the comprehensive and rigorous certification process. As the USFCA moves forward, the United States will be well served by creating an American program that coordinates the best of all the schools of fencing. The new format is consistent, well organized and dynamic so it can adapt and progress as technique and coaching around the world evolves.

All coaches are encouraged to join the USFCA and to help implement the NTP concepts and principals in their clubs around the country.

Congratulations to the following candidates that passed the exams:

Prevot Foil: Brenden Richard

Moniteur d'Armes: Mark Ongsitco

Moniteur:

Sabre: Brad Winder

Foil: Ryan O'Connor, Carol Christie, David Sinkkonen, Cory Price, Emma Brewer-Wallin

Epee: Emma Brewer-Wallin, Ryan O'Connor, Mark Wheeler, Tiffany LeBrun,
Jerome Bothelio, Sandor Mandoki, Nanci Keatley



Foil and epee coaches practice lessons



Isabel and Kathy working on the training lesson



Mike Heggen helps Emma prepare



Practice for the Prevot exam



Peter takes a break between exams



Wang Yung and Ryan after the exam



Lunch Break



Rob and Mark finish the oral exam



Robin works on the Prevot teaching lesson



Rob Handelman instructs foil



Wang Yung instructs sabre



Ted Katzoff, Mark Ongsitco, Carol Christie, Brad Winder and Wang Yung at lunch



Wang Yung grades Mark's sabre exam

The First “Super Clinic”

San Francisco, February 2-5, 2012

By Maître Ted Katzoff

When coaches and fencers come together for learning, improvement of skills and preparation for testing, it is both physically and mentally intense and fatiguing. It is also very satisfying with a feeling of accomplishment. During this weekend, several things became apparent to me. First was the high level of professionalism by the masters conducting the clinic. They worked very well as a team. The information was focused and the physical work was well balanced; just enough of each to maintain the progress with no wasted time. I was one of the older coaches there and at the end, though I was pretty tired, I felt good. This says a lot about how the schedule was organized.

Preparation for testing involves learning basic, set material in group and individual instruction. Maître Handelman’s book, *Fencing, A Practical Guide for Training Young Athletes*, and the Monitor and Prevot notebooks have organized that information in a well-organized and concise manner. The word “practical” is the operating concept. The material is designed to help the coach succeed in the examination as well as providing a foundation for everyday instruction. The notebooks are a good example of vertical integration of material, moving from simple to complex in a logical way. Coaches learned good teaching methodology; examiners knew exactly what to look for. Everyone is on the same page. Personal biases play no part here. The system is inherently fair.

What I see here is a well-organized and presented American system for developing both instructors and students of fencing. The certification process is professional and consistent. I honestly feel this is the beginning of a new chapter in American fencing history where we can create quality instructors here at home. This is very important, as it will help improve employment opportunities, and give potential clients confidence in the instruction for which they are paying.

The clinics provide the structure for this to happen. Hopefully, there will be training and certification clinics on the west coast, the east coast and in the center. One thing to remember, the standardization is in the certification process. The teaching material provides a foundation. There is plenty of room for individual creativity and discovery. A collegial atmosphere is encouraged. This is what I felt during the whole weekend. My thanks to Maîtres Rob, Peter and Wang.

Other Clinic Feedback

“This being my first exposure to the USFCA and its professional development programs I would say overall the clinic was very good, beneficial in moving folks forward in their skills and knowledge and well worth the time expended. In addition, the sessions themselves were well defined and objectives were met. And the video review with Me. Burchard was also helpful. As a programmatic theme, I especially enjoyed the emphasis on acknowledging the importance of focusing on the opponent, getting to know the opponent and to really play the game at one of its most enjoyable levels.

Having self-study work such as the reading material was very helpful in getting focused on the clinic. And then having that reading work referenced in the clinic lending to continuity in the instruction was excellent.

The focus on hand position and presentation was very helpful and both Me. Handelman's and Me. Burchard's constructive feedback in these areas of my skills were and are very helpful and appreciated.

Having the coaches engage in the warm up drills with active/dynamic stretching, the agility ladders and cones, the jump rope drills etc... was very good – giving a very healthy and supportive nod to the fact that all the fencing instructors are themselves students in this arena and the practices being promoted for teaching a fencer are equally applicable to teaching fencing masters.

In addition, the energy of the group was very positive and supportive; there weren't a lot of ego issues (issues that I have run into in the past in a room full of fencing instructors doing this type of work). The group and the instructors handled feedback well, worked collaboratively on more difficult topics and were very respectful to each other. I believe this positive learning environment was in a large part due to the three Maîtres setting the expectations and modeling the behaviors they expected of the class. The open atmosphere of knowledge sharing, a willingness to support each other and both Me. Handelman's and Me. Burchard's ability to meet people where they are at is admirable.

The question placed before me in all of this is "Would I attend another clinic like this put on by the USFCA?", I would say a resounding "Yes" to this question. I look forward to future opportunities to work with the USFCA and participating in its professional development efforts to building more fencing instructors and fencing masters. "

Olympic Gold Medalist Oksana Ermakova USFCA Epee Coaching Clinic

By Wendell Kubik

The Alamo Fencing Academy in conjunction with the USFCA hosted a clinic for Epee coaches on December 16-18, 2011 in San Antonio. The guest instructor was two-time Russian Olympic Gold Medalist Oksana Ermakova. Ermakova won gold medals at the 2000 and 2004 Olympics in the Women's Team Epee.



Coaches in the back row are left to right: Michael Hall, Abdel Salem, Andrei Samorodov, Oksana Ermakova, Wendell Kubik, Nick Kubik, Greg Boys, Rob Madril, Kristin Huston.

I would like to start by saying that Ermakova is not a coach. She is a full time member of the Russian national team and continues to train and compete at the international level. While she does work on occasion with youth and junior members of the national team she stated clearly that she is not a coach. She did not put on a coaching plastron or give lessons during this clinic. She demonstrated the training techniques that have been successful for her during her career as a fencer and observed lessons given by attending coaches. She gave advice to the coaches and the fencers on how to improve those lessons. Ermakova is left handed.

Attendees included the current USFCA President Abdel Salem and his assistant coach Kristin Huston. Huston is a veteran of the Iraqi War and was a varsity fencer at the Air Force Academy. She has rejoined Salem as part of his coaching staff at the Academy. Fencing Master Rob Madril from Santa Fe attended along with Mike Hall from the Texas Fencing Academy in Austin, and Greg Boys from Alamo Fencing Academy. There were about twenty youth and adult fencers who also attended. The host coaches were Andrei Samorodov and I.

Bob Hurley, the father and coach of Kelly and Courtney Hurley, attended the clinic on Friday night and took part in a Q&A session with Ermakova. Kelly and Courtney are US National and NCAA Champions and are from San Antonio. The discussion topics on Friday night included the difference between coaching men and women in epee, and conditioning and preparation for international competition. Hurley and Ermakova shared some interesting perspectives about young women training at the national team level. They shared their experiences concerning social pressures that face high level women athletes. They basically agreed that it is difficult for high level women fencers to miss social activities (parties, boyfriends, free time) in order to compete and train at a high level.

I asked Ermakova about reviewing video tape of her opponents before important competitions. She said that while she does review video of opposing fencers during team meetings and training sessions, she doesn't spend a lot of personal time reviewing video. "At the highest levels, everyone knows each other very well", Ermakova said.

Ermakova told us how she was selected as a child for fencing from an elementary school physical education class. It sounded like the typical Soviet selection method. The fencing coaches observed the girls playing games and doing some basic fencing exercises and she was initially not selected for the fencing program. She went up to the coach, who has been her coach for most of her career, and asked why she was not selected. He told her she could come along to the fencing club, if she was interested. He said, "If you want to fence, you can fence" She explained how this formed the basis of their relationship for many years. He knew that psychologically, she would always fight hard to make the team. He did not have to push her. When she won her gold medals at the Olympics, she chided her coach, "See, you did not pick me!" It's become a common joke between the two of them.

Ermakova talked about her transition from the old Soviet system to the new Russian national team. She is married to a member of the national men's sabre team and they have a son who is also interested in fencing. She has an apartment and a pension provided by the Russian government because of her gold medals but, if she ever leaves Russia, she would lose her pension. Her plans are to continue training and fencing even though the schedule is grueling. They have training camp 250 days of the year. The top juniors come to Moscow and train with the top seniors to make the team. They have three workouts each day starting with conditioning in the morning. This is followed by lessons, fencing, and meetings in the afternoon and evening. She gets about three lessons per week.

She said that she does not like to fence with men. She said the timing, tempo, speed and strength is completely different. She said some members of her team fence with men but, she noticed that they do not do well in women's competitions afterwards. It takes time for them to readjust to women's epee. Men tend to use more strength and power in their fencing and her style is less aggressive and relies more on finesse to capitalize on her opponents mistakes. She prefers less obvious tactics to bait the opponent and trick them into her distance.

She said that she quit fencing a few times when the stress of practice and competition became too great. She expected her coach to come after her and try to convince her to return. Instead he just left her alone. After a few days, she came back to the team. She said it was now his turn to joke with her. He did not come after her because he knew her psychology and that she would fight to stay on the team. On other occasions, he went after other members of the team that quit but he didn't do the same with her.

In San Antonio on Saturday morning, Oksana started with warm up drills for group. She demonstrated several warm up exercises used by the Russian team. After warm up, she demonstrated work on wall targets. She emphasized the importance of the direct thrust and keeping the arm relaxed when extending. She said, "It is the simplest and the most important action in fencing". It must be practiced daily. She stressed a relaxed shoulder and arm and bringing the point to the target smoothly for a low line en garde. She said that if you tense your arm during the extension you can lose up to 2 inches in reach.

Oksana's most important point in the target work was to start with straight thrust then add disengage or parry. But, always with the point moving forward towards the target, like a corkscrew. Oksana makes all fencing actions look easy or effortless. She said the French school teaches more extended arm actions while in the Russian school the arm is more relaxed and flexible.

Target work began with a single advance. Start with straight thrust and then add disengages with the fingers. Always with the point moving forward. Don't make the disengage first as a separate action, and then move the point forward. Make disengage while moving the point towards the target in one fluid motion. Then increase speed. Then do same actions with double advance. Add one element each time and build into an entire action.

The last part of target drills is infighting practice. After drills from advance and double advance distance move close to the target to close and then very close distance making multiple touches with angulation and then reverse shoulders and touch by drawing the weapon arm back. Then back out again to advance distance and repeat closing distance with multiple touches. Oksana said that her training program includes target work every day. At least 15 minutes each day.

Target advance lunge drill: It is important after advance lunge with thrust to return to the same point after every repetition. The distance must be precisely the same for every repetition and it is important that the body position and footwork be correct during each repetition. Repeat at least ten times or as many times as you can before you stop to rest.

Later in the morning she covered paired drills with another fencer, Oksana Samorodova, the host coach's daughter. Samorodova is currently a freshman at Penn State and won the Temple Collegiate Open in November 2011. Nick Kubik a member of Notre Dame's 2011 NCAA Championship team was also there to demonstrate paired drills and take lessons. The paired drills used a variety of distance stealing techniques with simple direct/indirect touches once the correct distance was achieved.

Oksana said that the Russian national team spends about 50 percent of practice time on paired drills. There is an action selected by the coach and the fencers must execute it with another team member. She said it is important to facilitate the other fencer and allow them to touch and execute the action correctly. Andrei Samorodov said that his experience over the last several years is that American fencers avoid being hit during paired drills. They don't execute defensive actions correctly and don't like to be touched during paired drills. Oksana said paired drills are very important and different from lessons with a coach. She said that you get to know the coach very well and you execute the action the same way each time. By working paired drills, with different members of the team, you learn to execute the same action against many different types of fencers with different target size, footwork, speed, and slightly different hand position or body position. She stressed that on the Russian national team; the fencers must help each other during paired drills and make the actions work. Samorodov said he has tried for many years to get his club fencers to do paired drills correctly and he has not been successful. American fencers do not like to be touched and prefer lessons with the coach.

The paired drill started from extension distance with straight thrust from six and four line. Engage the opponent's blade and thrust while moving the opponents' blade out of line. It is important for the fencer receiving the touch to keep contact with the blade and provide realistic opposition. Then move on to double disengage with straight thrust with one step.

Saturday afternoon after lunch she observed epee lessons by the coaches and offered advice, assistance, and improvements. She would step in as the student or the coach and demonstrate the correct execution of the action and help the coaches with the correct cues. She would follow the theme of the lessons and offer suggestions for further development of the particular lesson. She also corrected distance or footwork for both the fencers and the coaches.

Sunday morning's session continued with more lessons by the attending coaches. Some coaches, like Rob Madril brought their own students. He demonstrated the lessons he is currently using with his fencers. Oksana offered suggestions for further development of blade actions and footwork. These included the addition of preparatory actions to draw the opponent's response. She offered advice on the current cues and discouraged coaching cues that are not realistic. Abdel Salem, Andrei Samorodov, and I also offered some suggestions for improving the lessons we observed.

During Oksana's observations of lessons given by coaches, there was a spirited discussion about the correct starting distance for the lesson. One of the coaches was starting actions at the advance lunge distance and

directing the student to feint or make a beat with the advance. Oksana said this distance is too long and that an opponent could easily parry or counterattack from such a large distance. The coach explained that he was taught that advance lunge distance or large distance was the correct distance for epee. Oksana said that some type of preparatory footwork was required at this distance. The other coach thought that Oksana's starting distance was more like foil distance.

I have encountered this discussion before during a clinic given by Gia Kvaratskhelia in April of 2010 at Alamo Fencing Academy. Many of the observing coaches felt that this distance, for beginning foil actions, was too close. It seems that in the Russian approach to high level lessons, the distance is closer than some other countries. The Russian starting distance in the lesson bypasses the preparatory footwork and begins within striking distance or lunge distance for epee or foil. Gia explained this creates a feeling of tension within the high level student and allows many repetitions of the final action and the most important action. It appears the same is true in the Russian approach to high level epee lessons.

I have noticed that many American coaches include the preparatory footwork, like an advance or a jump in the starting distance of their lessons. The Russians appear to skip this part with high level students and get right down to business at a closer distance. This may be due to the fact that the Russian system emphasizes more paired drills. The fencers get plenty of repetitions and practice breaking the distance with other fencers. When they get on the strip with the coach, they may dispense with the distance breaking drills and instead immediately start with the critical final action. It is possible that American coaches spend more time in lessons teaching their fencers to prepare and steal distance because they lack sufficient repetitions in practice with other fencers (*see comments above by Samorodov*). When giving lessons at this longer distance, it is important that the coach ensure that the fencer do the preparatory blade/hand work at lunge distance or the appropriate distance for the required response. If the feint, disengage or beat is performed too soon the opponent can easily parry, open the distance, or counterattack. I think this is a common mistake with beginning to intermediate level coaches.

No USFCA examinations were offered at this clinic. I thought it was best to get the maximum amount of instruction while Oksana was available to us. We kept the format of the clinic flexible in order to give Oksana a comfortable environment in which to share her knowledge and experience. I took video of the coaching sessions and provided DVDs to the attending coaches. We took a group photo with Oksana and she autographed them for us. Finally, we provided certificates of attendance for the attending coaches and their fencers. We also presented Oksana a certificate of attendance signed by the USFCA President Abdel Salem, Past President Wendell Kubik, and host coach Andrei Samorodov. I think most responses were positive about the clinic and the activities that followed on the Riverwalk and local Mexican restaurants.

In closing, I would like to thank the coaches who attended and the fencers who made this an enjoyable experience for us and Oksana. She said that she enjoyed spending time with fencers and coaches in America who love fencing. I have posted some video clips of this clinic on my *YouTube* channel at the following link: <http://www.youtube.com/user/Foilcoach>.

Maître Wendell Kubik received his certification from the USFCA, and the Fechtlehrer, Akademie der Fechtkunst Deutschland. He is also USFCA Past President.



Upcoming Clinics

Woodside Fencing Center Inc in Queens, New York

USFCA Presents a 3 day Epee Clinic with last day Certification of Assistant Moniteur and Moniteur at:
Woodside Fencing Center Inc 39-11 57th St.

Woodside, Queens, N.Y. (718) 478-5946

www.woodsidefencing.com Witold Rak

Presenter: German National Epee Coach Christian Fach, Friedrichshafen/Bodensee

May 4 & 5 Hands on Training

May 6 Sunday Certification must be a USFCA member in good standing and passed the written on line test for desired. Clinic & Certification from 9-5PM www.usfcaonline.org

Recommended for: PSAL Fencing Coaches, Club Coaches, Veteran Fencers, College Fencers.

Redlands Fencing Center in Oklahoma City

Three Weapon Super Clinic for Prevots and Masters May 3-6, 2012

Presenter: Jerry Benson

May 3rd: 1 pm -9 pm

May 4th: 9 am-7 pm

May 5th: 9 am-6 pm; 7:30 pm-9 pm (Certified Examiners Clinic)

May 6th: 10 am Testing* or Structured Practical

Cost: USFCA Members: \$240 Non-Members: \$300 or Daily Members \$ 75 Non-Members \$ 85

After preregistration additional \$35 At the door registration additional \$50

Certified Examiners clinic \$ 30

In order to qualify for all practical exams, verification of passing score for written exams and verification of on-line payment.

Registration is available on askfred.net

Housing: Bricktown Hotel and Convention Center; 2001 East Reno; Oklahoma City, OK

This is one of two Super Clinics sponsored by the USFCA for the 2011-2012 season, designed to follow the National Training Program for Prevot and Masters, with well-known national and international coaches providing the training for all three weapons. This clinic will include both group class instruction and structured practice time for all participants. Super Clinics have been designated to replace the Annual Membership Training Meeting for US coaches.

Contacts: jerry@redlandsfencing.com or info@redlandsfencing.com

(405) 603-1344 daytime; (405) 728-3605 evenings

Website: www.redlandsfencing.com

Have your clinic listed here. Send information to usfca.pointinline.editor@comcast.net

Editor Picks

Further discussion on Gil Pezza's article *On The Primacy of Fundamentals*, which appeared in *Point in Line*, Volume 4, Issue 3 can be found at the following link: <http://www.accademiadellascherma.it/educazione-e-formazione/on-the-primacy-of-synthesis.html>

Coach Wanted

Sound Shore Fencing, Hommocks Rink Community Room, Larchmont, NY

Website: soundshorefencing.com

Salary: Part-time (1-2 afternoons per week), hourly rate commensurate with experience

Foil or epee coach with foil experience wanted. Some experience required; primarily must have experience teaching fencing to children ages 7-14. Position starts immediately (this is an on-going program that runs from September-June)

Contact: Michele Stevens, Program Director, soundshorefencing@gmail.com

Sound Shore Fencing is in Larchmont, NY in Westchester County, a 30-minute commute on Metro North. We currently offer classes in the Hommocks Ice Rink, at the Community Room. This is an after-school beginners foil program and the rink is adjacent to the Hommocks Middle School, which is ideal for our clients. I am renting space hourly a few days a week from the town but looking to expand to my own studio with the right coach. As I mentioned in my previous e-mail the reason why we haven't progressed from an after-school program to a fencing club is because our present coaches are fencers who are training and competing and they cannot make that kind of full-time commitment. I'm looking for a coach that could work with me now on a part-time basis and grow with our school into a full-time position. Ideally, I'd like a coach that could not only teach beginners but could take my present students to the next level and would be willing to travel with them to competitions. This candidate could also be someone who used to compete but now has taken another career path such as an actor or artist and wants to supplement their income with a flexible, part-time job which would require him or her to coach for only a few hours in the afternoon.

5280 Fencing Academy is a newly founded club in Northwest Suburban Denver, Colorado.

We have a clean, modern facility with four electric strips. We have a good group of 8 competitive fencers in the Y-10 through Y-14 age groups. We have an excellent and accomplished Head Coach in Iosif Vitebskiy, retired Head Coach of the University of Pennsylvania, 1968 Olympic Silver Medalist (USSR) and many other achievements. We have a supportive group of parents. We have a business lead by business people. We are developing our club in a quadrant of the Denver Metropolitan Area which is greatly underserved. We are primarily a Sabre club but also currently have coaching competency in Epee.

What we need: YOU! We are looking for an Assistant Coach in Sabre with additional competency in either Epee or Foil who is seeking their first or second position in the field. Coach Iosif has a great interest in sharing his extensive knowledge with the next generation of coaches. We need an outgoing individual who can conduct school introduction programs and aggressively pursue new students. You would be working with our new recruits in class and private lessons. For a successful and dedicated individual this position could lead to an equity interest in the club.

You should have a degree in Physical Education or a related field, accomplishments as a competitive fencer, coaching training, ability travel with our competitors to national competitions, desire to increase your coaching skills, and strong interest in business development.

Position available immediately!

Please send your CV or Resume, fencing accomplishments, pay requirements and questions to:

Brett.Hall.Denver@gmail.com

Classes for Low Vision and Blind Fencers

By Carolyn Gresham-Fiegel and Bob Fiegel

Oklahoma Sport Fencing (OSF), in Edmond, Oklahoma, originally opened on April Fool's Day, 2001, in a small facility in a strip mall. After several years of dealing with low ceilings and raucous business neighbors, OSF built its present 4500 square foot facility in October 2003. Owned by Prévôt d'Armes Bob Fiegel and Prévôt d'Armes Carolyn Gresham-Fiegel, OSF offers classes for youth and adults, competitive and recreational fencers, in all three weapons. Afternoon classes are open for homeschool students; in the evenings, classes are held for youth in the public/private school systems and for adults. Classes are held Monday through Thursday, with the facility open from 2 - 9 pm. Currently, OSF has over 80 members, three coaches and three coach aides.

In the spring of 2011, Bob and Carolyn started a new venture by investigating the possibility of classes for low vision and blind fencers. The OSF coaches were teaching fencing to a low vision student and had participated in a July 2011 summer camp for 60 low vision and blind children and teenagers. The idea for on-going classes for adults developed from these experiences.

At about the same time, OSF was also expanding its space by increasing the size of its second classroom. Through discussions with a local vision advocacy group, Bob and Carolyn made site modifications to improve the room for teaching to low vision and blind fencers. Modifications included tactile strips, variable lighting, and minor changes to the equipment storage system.

Several discussions with vision advocacy groups and with potential students made it clear that a major obstacle for many students would be transportation to classes. So in the fall of 2011, Bob and Carolyn started a non-profit organization, the Blind Fencing Scholarship Fund, to solicit funding solely to provide transportation for the low vision and blind fencers. So far, the Fund has received private contributions and is applying for grants to local businesses and philanthropic organizations. All money collected by the Fund is spent exclusively on providing transportation for the low vision and blind students. The Fund has applied for 501(c)3 designation from the IRS and is awaiting IRS determination.



In October 2011, OSF offered its first session for low vision and blind fencers. Sessions are two months long and students attend once a week for two hours. There is no cost to participants, all equipment is furnished, and transportation to and from the facility is provided. To maximize use of the room space and to have a good student:coach ratio, the first class was limited in size to 6. The class was full, with a waiting list. The second session, which started in January 2012, was increased to 8 participants, and was again full with a waiting list. OSF has scheduled four sessions per year.

Class meetings cover the basics of movement and balance, blade actions, and bouting. Students learn épée. Due to variation in vision and in order to level the playing field, students wear blindfolds when bouting. Training during drills is done both with and without blindfolds. Fencing with a blindfold adds the necessity to first find the opponent, then to either touch or evade. Students learn to use touch and hearing to gather information, quickly analyze it, and then act. Footwork is the usual advances, retreats, lunges, and shifts to either side, done while also paying attention to the feel of the strip and its edges through the feet. Bladework is controlled sweeps to find the opponent's blade; once the opponent's blade is found, that engagement (sometimes fleeting, sometimes prolonged) provides information about distance, position, and activity of the opponent. Based on this information, students learn reactions that lead to a touch or an evasion of the opponent. Of course it works both ways, and in the course of a bout, students have been seen devising ways to give false information.



Each session culminates in a tournament, held on the first Saturday after the final session meeting. The salle is filled with participants, family members, coaches, and friends to cheer on the students. Rumor has it that the first international blind fencing tournament will be held in Boston, MA, in June 2012. Teams are expected from Italy, Uruguay, and Boston - OSF has been invited to send a team and the students are working hard to be prepared.

As an exciting adjunct, the progress of several of the students is being followed by OSF member, coach aide, and filmmaker George Adams. Though

not related to the class itself, George is producing an independent documentary which showcases the students as they practice and compete. Filming is expected to continue all the way to Boston, where OSF students hope to bring back some medals.

For more information, please contact Bob Fiegel at coach.bob@oksportfencing.com or Carolyn Gresham-Fiegel at coach.carolyn@oksportfencing.com. Or visit www.oksportfencing.com and www.blindfencing.oksportfencing.com. For information on the documentary, visit www.touchemovie.com.

Carolyn Gresham-Fiegel and Bob Fiegel are both Prevot d'Armes. Carolyn serves as USFCA Treasurer.

Meet the Candidates

By Wendell Kubik



The nominee for the office of Executive Vice President for the term of 2012-14 is **Guglielmo "Gil" Pezza**. He returned to coaching in 2010 after pursuing a legal career at one of the most prestigious legal firms in Michigan for the last 15 years. He is now responsible for international operations for the state of Michigan and is currently involved in water technologies. Pezza attended the Detroit College of Law where he received his J.D. with high honors in 1990, graduating fifth in his class.

Gil was the first epeeist at Wayne State University to ever win a NCAA Men's épée individual championship in 1980 and repeated as national champion in 1981. Pezza was also instrumental in WSU winning its second and third NCAA Men's Fencing Team Championships in 1979 and 1981. After graduating in 1981 with a major in History and Political Science, Pezza returned to WSU to pursue a Master in Sports Administration which he received in 1985.

In 1982-83 Pezza joined WSU coaching staff under Aladar Kogler as an assistant coach and helped guide the Tartars to the 1983 NCAA title. In the early eighties WSU dominated the NCAA Fencing Championships. In 1982, Maestro Istvan Danosi (USFCA member) won the title, his last before retiring. Kogler won the 1983 title before leaving. Pezza was appointed head coach when Kogler left and won the 1984 and 1985 NCAA national titles.

In 1985 he received his Maestro di Scherma diploma from the Accademia Nazionale della Scherma, in Naples, Italy, and his Master certification from the USFCA. In 1990 he was elected President of the USFCA and served until 1994. He also headed the training of épée coaches at the USFA Coaches College and was US National Coach for women's épée.

Andrew Quattrociocchi is the nominee for the office of Secretary for the term of 2012 – 14. He is the Head Coach of the Lassiter High School fencing team in Marietta, GA. and assistant coach at the Lotus Fencing Academy in Atlanta.

Andrew fenced for foil the Rochester Fencing Center and was coached by Buckie Leach. He was in the top 10 of the national point list as a junior. Later he fenced for the Atlanta Fencers club and was coached by Gene Gettler. Most recently he fenced for the Athletic Club Northeast, coached my Walid Mahran, he was in the top 3 of the national point list for veteran 40.



He was a Cryptologic Technician for the US Navy from 1989-97 and currently is a Senior District Manager for Genuine Auto Parts. He is certified as a Prevot de Fleuret by the USFCA.

The nominee for Midwest Vice President for the term of 2012 – 14 is **Elsayed M. Emara**. He is currently the Head Epee and Foil coach at the Peoria Fencing Academy in Peoria, IL. Before moving to Peoria, he was the

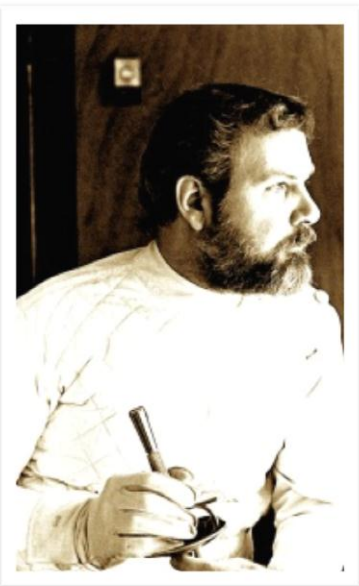


Head Epee Coach at the Jesuit Preparatory College and Gold Blade Fencing Center in Dallas, TX. He coached at Salle Mauro in Houston from 1999 until 2003 and the Lone Star Fencing Center in Dallas from 1995 until 1998. He served on the Annual Conference Committee for the USFCA from 2008 until the present. Elsayed began fencing at the age of 13 at the Alexandria Fencing Club in Egypt. He became a member of the Egyptian National team in 1988. He placed 8th at the Junior World Championships in 1990 and 17th at the World Championships in 1992. He won the Egyptian junior and senior National Championship in 1992 and 1994. He is certified as a Moniteur in all three weapons by the USFCA.

In Memoriam: William Gaugler

By Christoph Amberger

On December 10, 2011, one of the great fencing masters, scholars, and authors of the 20th century, Maestro William M. Gaugler, died of cancer in Sunnyvale, California.



“Thank you for your good reply and for publishing my article on Curriculum and Diploma,” he wrote to me on September 15, 2011. “You are as always generous. I have great difficulties writing, so I cannot reply easily. I was given only a few months to live, beginning in January this year.”

It turns out that this was the last correspondence I was to exchange with Bill Gaugler. And his article Teaching Fencing: Curriculum and Diploma (although written several years ago for the last edition of Nick Evangelista’s FQM) was the last fencing-related article by him to be published during his lifetime.

My acquaintance with Bill Gaugler dates back to the mid-1990’s, when I had just started to publish Hammerterz Forum. A mild and tolerant man, Bill had commented on an article in which I had picked on the form exhibited by Aldo Nadi during his duel with Contronei. At a time when carefully groomed preconceived notions, paired with a few snippets of Victorican fencing historiography, passed for expertise among fencing history aficionados (including myself), Bill not only was an authority. He also represented a direct

link to one of the greatest fencing schools of the 19th century.

Born Aug. 5, 1931, in Highland Park, Michigan, Bill had been one of the last American students of the great Italian fencer Aldo Nadi. Among his teachers were Maestro Umberto Di Paola, Director of the Fencing Masters Preparatory Course at the National Institute of Physical Education in Rome, and Maestro Giorgio Pessina, President of the Italian Fencing Masters Association, of which Dr. Gaugler was a full member, with a fencing master's diploma from the Accademia Nazionale di Scherma in Naples, Italy.

"I am only two teachers removed from Radaelli: Carlo and Giorgio Pessina," he wrote to me last September. And his student Sean Hayes expands the historical scope for us: "Maestro Gaugler's fencing lineage, teacher to student, can be traced back via a primary line to the 18th Neapolitan fencing master Tommaso Bosco e Fucile, and through a secondary line to the 17th century Neapolitan master Giovanni Battista Marcelli and the 17th century Roman master, Lellio Marcelli. Dr. Gaugler would be the first to point out that this secondary line contains one honorary, rather than board-certified, fencing master: Cavaliere Giacomo Mattei, a noted fencer and co-founder of the Neapolitan Military Fencing Academy in 1861."

Not only did Bill represent a last living link to the methods of Radaelli and Pini, Barbasetti, Sestini and Parise. His scholarship and skill created an interesting anomaly. I wrote back in 1995:

"Given the air of patronizing cultural pretense and assumed superiority an American will encounter almost anywhere in Europe, Italy's fencing community must be cringing right now. Because the latest and ultimate fencing book on the modern Italian school of fencing once again was not written by an Italian maestro, but by a man whose nationality ranks just above the wild nations of Gog and Magog in the self-sufficient pantheon of European culture and sophistication. William Gaugler, the *éminence grise* of American fencing, has carried his triumphal success in the field of fencing literature into what Italians consider the motherland of systematic swordplay. After the success of his German-language *Fechten für Anfänger und Fortgeschrittene* (originally published in 1983 by Munich-based Nymphenburger Verlagsbuchhandlung and recently reissued by German paperback giant Heyne), Professor Gaugler's *Fencing Everyone* (Winston-Salem, NC: Hunter Textbooks, 1987) have become modern classics in both Germany and the United States. Their Italian translation, *La Scienza della Scherma*, promises to do just that in Italy, too."

In characteristic modesty, Bill responded in a letter from Oct. 5, 1995:

"If, indeed, the book is regarded essential among Italian works of this century, I shall be compensated fully for the labor that has gone into it. Above all, I shall be grateful that the method of classical Italian swordplay will have been preserved. Only Maestro Di Paola, among my masters, lived to see the German and Italian editions in print, and he was delighted. And he had been not only a graduate of the Scuola Magistrale, but he was also on its faculty, and, during the 1930's, worked alongside Nedo Nadi, giving Nedo lessons (read exercises) on a daily basis. So the lessons I included at the end of the Italian edition are the very lessons Aldo and Nedo Nadi received and transmitted to their students."

Thanks to Laureate Press publisher Lance Lobo, the extended *Scienza* was published in English back in 1997 as *The Science of Fencing*, a comprehensive exposition of the Italian systems of foil, *épée* and saber, enhanced by *The History of Fencing*, and supplemented by *A Dictionary of Universally Used Fencing Terminology*.

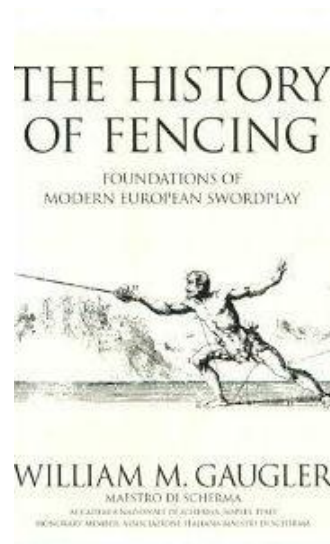
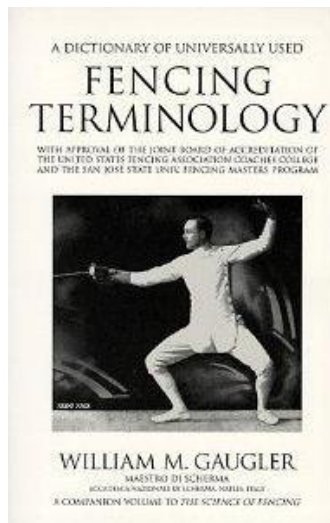
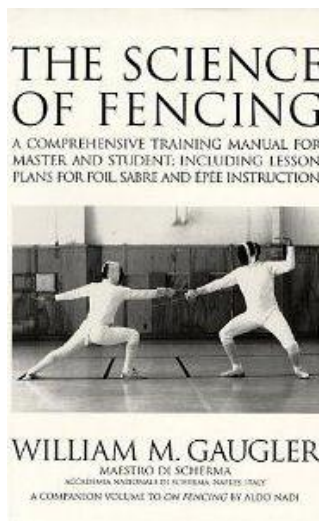
In 1979, Bill established a fencing master's training program at San José State University in California, which continues his legacy.

The surprising thing is that despite all of his achievements in fencing, fencing was really more of an avocation rather than a profession: William M. Gaugler was Professor of Classical Archaeology at San Jose State University, California and as such left several seminal works on Etruscan Art.

After caring and providing for his ill wife for more than a decade, Bill died of cancer. According to Maestro Hayes, he outlived his prognosis by almost a year, a tribute to his strength. During that time he concluded work on several of his art history and archeology projects, and these are expected to be published.

We raise our weapon in a last salute to a generous friend, a kind mentor, a scholar, and a gentleman. Until we meet at Valhalla!

Books by William Gaugler



This memoriam first appeared in *The Secret History of the Sword*, December 28, 2011 republished here with the author's permission. *The Secret History of the Sword* can be found at:

<http://fencingclassics.wordpress.com/>

NCAA Coach of the Year Janusz Bednarski

University of Notre Dame fencing Coach Janusz Bednarski has been tabbed the 2010-11 NCAA Coach of the Year in fencing; it was announced by the United States Fencing Coaches Association (USFCA).

For Bednarski, it marks the first time being selected NCAA Coach of the Year after twice receiving the USFCA Midwest Regional Coach of the Year (1997, 1999). The 2010-11 campaign saw the Irish return to the national forefront, claiming their eighth National Championship and third under the direction of Bednarski, dating back to the '03 season when he took over as head coach of the program.



"Being named Coach of the Year is a great honor," remarked Bednarski. "With the results of last season it is a great satisfaction that my work and the hard work of others within the team including our athletes, coaches, administrators and other staff members was so effective and was rewarded in this way. It truly is a great honor and one I am very proud to have received."

En route to the team's title run, Bednarski guided the men's team to a 29-1 regular season record, while the women posted an undefeated 29-0 ledger. The squad then made history at the Midwest Fencing Conference Championships, capturing the overall team title for the second consecutive year while becoming the first team to sweep each of the six weapon concentrations since the conference formed in '99.

Bednarski's team qualified the maximum 12 fencers for the NCAA Championship and enjoyed four individual podium finishes on their way to the title. Freshman foilist Ariel DeSmet (Troutdale, Ore.) and junior epeeist Courtney Hurley (San Antonio, Texas) each claimed individual gold in their respective weapons, while senior sabreur Avery Zuck (Beaverton, Ore.) captured a silver medal and senior sabreuse Eileen Hassett (Beaverton, Ore.) secured bronze. It marked the second time that a Bednarski-coached squad captured two gold medals in the same Championship, as Sarah Borrmann (women's sabre) and Kelley Hurley (women's epee) accomplished the feat in '08.

The University of Notre Dame's athletic heritage has featured many legendary coaches, but only one--current ninth-year fencing coach Janusz Bednarski--directed his Irish squad to the national title in his first year as the program's head coach. Such was Bednarski's accomplishment in the spring of 2003, when a veteran Notre Dame squad edged rival Penn State to return to the pinnacle of the collegiate fencing world.

Success was not just a first-year feat for Bednarski, as he helped guide the Irish to a historic comeback to win the 2005 NCAA Championships, and he became the first Notre Dame Head Coach in any sport to see his teams win multiple national titles in fewer than five seasons.

Bednarski's 2009 squad put together a dominant regular season before falling just short at the NCAA Championships, as the Fighting Irish finished second for the second consecutive season. The men put together an undefeated regular season (33-0), while the women were almost as equally impressive, going 30-2 before the postseason. Both squads were ranked atop the USFCA poll for most of the season. After another successful performance at the NCAA regionals that included nine medalist finishes, Notre Dame once again sent 12 fencers to the NCAA Championships.

After falling behind early, the Irish rallied to make a run at the championship by catching and surpassing rival Ohio State over the last two days of the contest to secure second place, but in the end they could not replicate their historic comeback of 2005.

The 2010 campaign was the first season since 1994 that both the men's and women's teams finished the season undefeated. It also marked the first time each team posted undefeated records with over 30 wins. During the 2010 season, Bednarski coached eleven of his athletes toward being dubbed All-Americans, including epeeists Courtney Hurley, who tied for third overall at the NCAA Championships, Kelley Hurley, James Kaull and Greg Schoolcraft; foilists Hayley Reese, Gerek Meinhardt and Enzo Castellani; and sabreists Sarah Borrmann, Eileen Hassett, Avery Zuck, and Barron Nydam. Meinhardt was crowned champion in the foil during his second trip to the NCAA Championships. Each of the eleven All-Americans finished in the top 12 at the NCAA Championships in 2010.

Eleven fencers earned All-American status in 2009, including sabreists Eileen Hassett, Barron Nydam and Avery Zuck as well as women's foilist Hayley Reese, who finished second to claim the silver. Meinhardt, who represented the U.S. in men's foil at the 2008 Olympic Games, and women's epeeist Courtney Hurley finished second and tied for third, respectively, in their first trips to the NCAA Championships. Hurley and Meinhardt represent the restocking of world-class talent Bednarski has engineered as of late.

His sabre fencers now have earned 42 All-America honors (out of a possible 56; with women's sabre making its debut in 2000) and have won five NCAA individual titles, plus six runner-up finishes.

In 2008, Bednarski also led the Irish to a second-place finish at the NCAA Championships after sending the maximum 12 fencers to the event, marking Notre Dame's best finish since winning the national title in 2005. Additionally, he had 11 fencers garner All-America honors, including four first-team selections on the women's side. Kelley Hurley (epee) and Sarah Borrmann (sabre) both captured individual gold medals at the 2008 NCAA Championships. Hurley went on to win two more gold medals at the 2008 Junior World Championships (individual and team epee), before representing the U.S. in Beijing at the 2008 Olympic Games.

Bednarski was named the sixth head coach in the program's storied history in May of 2002, after serving eight seasons as an assistant on the Notre Dame staff. The sabre specialist has seen his first eight seasons as the Notre Dame head coach yield a .941 combined winning percentage (429-27) - with nearly identical marks during that span by the Irish men (212-14) and women (217-13).

Bednarski has a rich history of coaching some of the best all-around collections of sabre talent in all of college fencing, and his current set of sabreists may be able to measure up to some of his more famed sabreists of the

past. Current seniors Zuck, Nydam, Hassett and Borrmann have combined for 10 all-America honors and a national championship (Borrmann) in three seasons under his tutelage.

One of Bednarski's most impressive sabre duos included Mariel Zagunis (the 2004 and 2008 Olympic gold medalist in sabre), who dominated her college bouts with the Irish as a freshman, while going 29-1 in the regular season and advancing to the 2005 NCAA title match before returning to win the NCAA title in 2006. Valerie Providenza impressively won the 2004 NCAA sabre title and then battled through illness to post the second-most round-robin wins at the 2005 NAAs (behind Zagunis), helping Notre Dame stage its historic rally to edge Ohio State for the NCAA title. Zagunis (21-2) and Providenza (19-4) blitzed the 2005 NCAA field for a 40-6 combined record.

On the men's side, Patrick Ghattas and Matt Stearns combined with 2009 graduate Bill Thanouser to give the Irish another talented sabre group. Ghattas was one of the nation's top-ranked junior fencers, competing with Team USA at the 2005 World Junior Championships while earning All-America honors at the 2004 NAAs and again in '05 (when he reached the title bout, followed by two more NCAA runner-up finishes in 2006 and '07). Stearns turned in a 10th-place finish for his own All-America honor at the 2005 NAAs, combining with Ghattas for the second-most men's sabre wins (32) in the NCAA field. Thanouser then placed sixth at the '06 NAAs for his own All-America honor. Providenza and Ghattas ultimately became rare four-year sabre All-Americans, while Stearns and Zagunis both posted two All-America finishes with the Irish.

A former Olympic-level coach with Poland's national team program, Bednarski's leadership and training strategy positioned the 2003 Irish for a run at the program's sixth all-time NCAA title and first since '94.

Bednarski served as head coach of Poland's Olympic Team from 1978-88, with members of those teams winning 11 medals at the Olympics and World Championships. Formerly a member of Poland's national sabre team, the Warsaw native received the prestigious Polish Silver Cross of Merit for his coaching accomplishments as head coach of the Polish National Team. Prior to assuming his duties as the Irish head coach, Bednarski had been a vital member of the Notre Dame program as it remained among the nation's best - with the Irish finishing as the NCAA runner-up every year from 1996-2000, in addition to third-place finishes in 1995, 2001, '02 and '04.

Bednarski's days as an assistant included helping coordinate the recruiting effort that fortified the Irish for their pursuit of the national title. The 2003 seniors finished as the most accomplished class in the history of Notre Dame fencing, combining for nearly 1,300 career victories and 20 All-America performances. The senior leaders in 2003 included a pair of four-time All-Americans in men's epeeist Jan Viviani and men's foilist Ozren Debic, with senior men's sabreist Gabor Szelle and senior women's epeeists Meagan Call and Anna Carnick each posting three All-America performances during their careers. Debic (157-8, .952) and Viviani (162-20, .890) finished with the top career winning percentages in Notre Dame history for their respective weapons while Szelle (182-13, .933) ranks fourth all-time on the sabre win percentage list and sixth among all men's weapons.

The 2005 senior class included a pair of top fencers from Bednarski's native Poland - three-time women's foil NCAA champion ('05 runner-up) Alicja Kryczalo and 2005 men's epee NCAA champ Michal Sobieraj ('03 NCAA

runner-up), in addition to two-time NCAA foil runner-up Andrea Ament. Each of those three became rare four-year All-Americans, with Kryczalo going undefeated (23-0) in the 2002 NCAA round robin before beating Ament in the gold-medal bout (Ament's only losses in the '02 NAAs came versus her teammate, followed by a third-place finish in '03). Bednarski's first season as the Notre Dame head coach included a 46-2 combined record in regular-season dual meets, with the Irish men going 24-0 to extend the program's third-longest winning streak to 83 matches (that streak ultimately ended at 90 matches in 2004). The Irish men claimed the number-one ranking in the middle of the 2003 season, after knocking off Penn State in a fiercely contested 15-12 decision at Notre Dame's Joyce Center.

Bednarski's 2004 Notre Dame squads combined for a 50-1 record, with both the Irish men (24-1) and women (26-0) holding the number-one ranking. The 2005 teams followed with a 43-5 combined record (22-2 by the women; 21-3 for the men) and the Notre Dame women held the nation's top ranking for most of that '05 season. Both Irish teams then suffered only one loss in 2006 (each 29-1), with the women again rising to the top spot in the AFCA poll.

During Bednarski's eight seasons as an assistant, the Irish won 93.6 percent of their dual matches (382-26) and the Irish men's team held the nation's number-one ranking in both the 2001 and 2002 final coaches' polls.

Bednarski's work with Notre Dame has made a significant impact in sabre and epee - with Bill Lester, Luke La Valle and Gabor Szelle combining over a six-year stretch ('95-'00) to win two gold, two silver and one bronze medal in NCAA sabre.

The men's sabre squad posted the maximum two All-Americans in each of Bednarski's first six full seasons ('96-'01), with that level of success unmatched by any other Notre Dame weapon in that six-year stretch.

He tutored two-time sabre All-American Andre Crompton ('02), who stood as high as sixth in the U.S. rankings, while Szelle and fellow senior sabreman Matt Fabricant earned All-America honors in 2003 to help pace the national title-winning effort.

Bednarski also oversaw the career of women's sabre captain Carianne McCullough, who progressed from being a walk-on to a nationally-ranked competitor and 2002 All-American. He then developed Destanie Milo into an All-American in her own right, with Milo's sixth-place finish at the 2003 NAAs providing a final push to the team title.

Bednarski helped mold Providenza and Ghattas into top-level collegiate fencers. Providenza turned in a strong rookie season and won the 2004 NCAA title--becoming the first Notre Dame sabre fencer (men's or women's) ever to win the NAAs as a freshman (followed by Borrmann in 2008). Ghattas turned in his own All-America showing at the 2004 NAAs (placing 10th) and surged to number two in the USFA under-20 men's sabre rankings, before going on to his NCAA runner-up finishes in 2005 and '06.

After moving to the United States in 1988, Bednarski served as head coach at Denver's CFS Fencing Club - the largest fencing club in the Rocky Mountain region - from 1989-94. Many of his CFS products went on to achieve great success on the national and international level. While in Colorado, Bednarski served on the U.S.

coaching staff at the 1993 (head coach) and 1994 Junior World Championships and was a U.S. coach for the 1992 Junior Pan-Am Games. His fencers have competed in Olympics, World Championships and World Cups in all age categories.

Bednarski served from 1994-2002 as head coach of the Escrime du Lac Fencing Club in Mishawaka (also known as the Indiana Fencing Academy) and has been a member of many advisory panels for the U.S. Fencing Association, the U.S. Olympic Committee and the U.S. Fencing Coaches Association. He is licensed by Federation International D'Escrime as an "A" category Fencing Director and is one of just a handful of fencing specialists in North America who are ranked by the International Fencing Federation.

His wide-reaching experience includes participating in the organizational efforts for World Championships held in Denver (1989 and `91) and South Bend (2000). In 1997 and `99, he was selected as the Midwest Region Coach of the Year by the U.S. Fencing Coaches Association.

Fluent in several languages, Bednarski received his master's degree in business in 1970 from Warsaw's prestigious SGPiS Business College, where he worked as a lecturer in economics. He obtained his coaching diploma from the Academy of Physical Education in 1978 and has published several articles on coaching, effective club management and the counseling of athletes.

A resident of Granger, Ind., Bednarski and his wife, Izabella, have two sons: Michael (36) and Andrzej (30), a three-time sabre All-American and 2002 graduate of Notre Dame who also served as an intern assistant coach on his father's staff during the 2005 and `06 seasons.

This is a reprint of a previously published article:

<http://www.und.com/sports/c-fenc/nd-c-fenc-body.html>

For more information about Janusz Bednarski go to: www.und.com

Army vs Navy

On April 21st, the Navy midshipmen from Annapolis will clash with the Army cadets from West Point in men's and women's NCAA-format dual meets (27 bouts per match). The contest will occur on neutral ground, at the Liberty Fencing Club in Warrington, PA (366 Easton Road, Unit D-1), and spectators are welcome. Also joining in this spirited competition will be a mixed foil squad representing the Royal Marines. The competition begins with the men's dual meets at 1PM, followed by the women's dual meets. While the Army-Navy dual meets are underway, Navy and Army foil squads will compete against the Royal Marines in USFA-format team relay competitions.



After the varsity program at Navy was terminated in 1993, fencing returned as an extracurricular activity in 2001. Since then, the Army and Navy teams have sought out opportunities at various collegiate tournaments to compete in head-to-head matches. Both teams compete in the annual U.S. Association of Collegiate Fencing Clubs national championships, and various weapon squads occasionally go head to head at that event. The full teams last met in 2010, when Navy invited Army to take part in a series of Baltimore-Washington Conference dual meets hosted by USNA. In that contest, the Army men's and women's teams were both victorious, and the midshipmen are intent on settling the score. This year's competition should be an exciting one, with strong epee and saber squads on both teams. For the 2011-2012 season, the Army epee squad placed 1st in the Middle Atlantic Collegiate Fencing Association (MACFA), and their sabre squad finished 3rd.

The Navy sabre squad finished 1st in the Baltimore-Washington Collegiate Fencing Conference, and their epee squad finished 2nd.



Design of a procedure for studying tactile stimuli in fencing

ENRIQUE ALVAREZ
PRÉVÔT D'ÉPÉE



Enrique Alvarez Vazquez is a USFCA member and Maître d'épée.

This paper was submitted for his USFCA Masters thesis.

In order to maintain the formatting it is presented as a separate link on the USFCA website.

The following link works with the paper

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R66CY1hozaU>

Maitre Vazquez may be contacted at: alvarez@mfencing.com

We congratulate Maitre Alvarez and thank him for his article.